**Georgia**

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV Program) supports the Georgia Home Visiting Program and provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to at-risk pregnant women and parents with young children.

The MIECHV Program, which builds upon decades of scientific research, provides voluntary, culturally-appropriate, individually-tailored supports to families in their homes, including providing information about children’s health, development, and safety, and when appropriate, referrals to support services.

Through federal grants from the MIECHV Program, in fiscal year 2016, home visitors in Georgia:

- Made 14,576 home visits to 2,606 parents and children in 1,368 families
- Enrolled 1,729 new parents and children to the program, or 66% of participants
- Served families living in communities in 12 counties across the state, or 8% of Georgia counties, of which 1 county, or 8%, is rural

The MIECHV Program in Georgia:

- Increased the percentage of home visits where safety information is provided to 93%, from 82% in 2015
- Accomplished a 68% expansion in home visiting services in, serving 1,368 families (up from 816 families in fiscal year 2015) through targeted improvements in family engagement and retention processes
- Reported that the New American Pathways Parents as Teacher (PAT) Home Visiting Program was awarded the highly prestigious 2016 PAT Losos Award for Impact, which recognizes PAT affiliate programs that are making a tangible impact in the community they serve. The New American Pathways program serves the refugee community in DeKalb County, where parent educators serve refugees from 16 different countries, including Myanmar, Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia and Ethiopia

Like all MIECHV Program grantees, Georgia uses evidence-based home visiting models that are proven to improve child health and to be cost effective. Georgia leverages federal funds to implement the following models to serve children and families across the state:

- Healthy Families America
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers
- Early Head Start - Home Based Option

**Counties with home visiting services funded by federal grants from the MIECHV Program (as of March 2017):**

- **Rural county:**
  - Crisp

- **Non-rural counties:**
  - Bartow, Chatham, Clarke, DeKalb, Glynn,
  - Houston, Liberty, Muscogee, Richmond,
  - Rockdale, Whitfield

Research shows that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of life improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase positive parenting, and enhance child development and school readiness.