

## Background

The San Luis Valley in Colorado (CO) experiences high rates of poverty, unemployment, and child abuse and neglect with low educational attainment, a lack of public transportation, staggering rates of substance abuse, and rates of homelessness that are ten times the national average. To address these needs, the CO Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program designed and implemented Working Together, an approach that leverages existing community resources with collaborative programming to remove barriers for MIECHV parents who are returning to school and work.

This project aimed to demonstrate improvement in the following priority area(s):

- Priority #3: Coordination of MIECHV-funded home visiting programs with community resources and supports.

### Resources

[CO MIECHV Program](#)  
[Working Together Video](#)  
[MIECHV Innovation Awards](#)

## Project Activities and Highlights

Working Together was created utilizing the collective impact model to integrate services with a broad range of partners and to provide a two-generational program for 110 home visiting families. Services included home visiting, GED training and testing, short-term college certificate programs, workforce services, financial literacy, high-quality early learning, transportation, and connections to community partners.

### Project Activities

- Designed five “gears” that provided sequenced and bundled services to help families achieve economic stability and mobility: 1) Early Childhood Education, 2) Post-Secondary and Employment Pathways, 3) Economic Assets, 4) Health and Well-Being, and 5) Social Capital.
- Collaborated with the Buell Foundation to procure a [modular childcare unit](#), providing 24 new childcare spots for MIECHV children and addressing the barrier of lack of childcare for young parents.

### Lessons Learned

- Continuous support from stakeholders is required to effectively work towards addressing complex social barriers and further collective impact implementation.

## Evaluation Summary

### Evaluation Findings

- Within one year of enrollment, 55% of enrollees saw success and progress in education – including progress towards an Associate degree, various certifications, a GED, and/or high school diploma (see Figure 1).
- Within one year of enrollment in Financial Literacy programming, 70% of families improved in at least two measures on an evidence-based financial capability scale.

### Sustainability

- The MIECHV Formula Award supports, two “community navigator” positions, which coordinate across services to support families going back to work and school.

### Recommendations for the Home Visiting Field

- Support infrastructure to address service integration and referrals moving forward.
- Integrate client-level outcome measures and qualitative data collection methods where possible.

**Figure 1: Educational Improvement by Selected Path**

