

## Background

The Oklahoma (OK) Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program has reported experiencing declines in home visiting recruitment, enrollment, and retention across all four of the home visiting models implemented. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts have improved conditions; however, descending rates of visit completion and program retention persist. Using a Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (COIIN) learning collaborative (LC) approach, the OK MIECHV CQI Project addressed engagement problems as well as the science of how engagement affects parent and child outcomes.

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

- Priority #1: Recruitment, engagement, and retention of eligible families to MIECHV-funded home visiting programs.

### Resources

[OK MIECHV Program Information](#)

[OK PDSA Summaries](#)

[MIECHV Innovation Awards](#)

## Project Activities and Highlights

The OK MIECHV CQI Project chose to focus on improving the number of visits completed, retention rates, and active engagement of clients by establishing a COIIN LC of 12 home visiting agencies. Supplemental activities included staff trainings (Lemonade for Life) related to the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), as well as the development of individualized data dashboards for each individual program's CQI project.

### *Project Activities*

- Local implementing agencies (LIAs) developed Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) projects with unique “change ideas” targeting engagement and retention for each six-month cycle.
- Supportive learning sessions were held with participating agencies at six-month intervals to promote sharing of lessons learned, best practices, and challenges.

### *Lessons Learned*

- Using data to monitor project success should be done with a focus on utility and comprehensibility.
- LIA ownership over the development of their individual PDSA projects promoted buy-in to the CQI process.

## Evaluation Summary

### *Evaluation Findings*

- A COIIN LC approach improved engagement patterns qualitatively (Children First and Parents as Teachers) and statistically (Parents as Teachers).
- For Tulsa County Children First, clients exposed to a discussion about ACEs and resiliency always completed a subsequent visit two months later – this improvement was marginally significant and has been adopted as standard practice by the LIA.

### *Sustainability*

- As of 2019, the learning collaborative continues with a focus on father engagement in co-parenting activities.

### *Recommendations for the Home Visiting Field*

- Organize the structure of an evaluation to limit the number of competing demands and overlapping timelines.
- Ensure data-driven approaches are simple, accessible, and highly customized to the relevant needs and interests of home visiting agencies and partners.