

WestEd CHVP External Evaluation Issue Brief #1: The Impact of Home Visiting Programs on Families

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During fall 2014, the WestEd California Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) external evaluation team conducted ten site visits in eight counties in California. Forty-five home visitors were interviewed and 12 family focus groups with 64 family members were conducted. The participants were asked the following questions to determine perceptions about the impact of home visiting services on families.

Home Visitor Interview Questions:

- Do you believe your services are making a difference in the families you serve?
- If so, how? If not, why do you believe this is the case?

Family Focus Group Question:

- How has being in the home visiting program changed you or your family?

Home Visitor Quotes

“Oh yes, I think it is more encouraging [to] families that there is someone who believes in them when no one ever has in their past.”

“Yes, sometimes the tangible things (i.e., connecting to resources, or bus passes) but intangibles are the self-confidence moms gain and feeling like they are doing a good job understanding their babies and being good parents. Adults thrive on feeling that ‘I did it’ as much as children do, and this program can afford the opportunity for the parent to say ‘I did it!’”

“We are educating moms about pregnancy, healthy nutrition, contraception to prevent unplanned pregnancy and linking moms to resources in the community. [We are] helping link the family into the community so they are more self-sufficient and helping with bonding and attachment.”

Family Quotes

“It has given me confidence. The home visitor has provided a checklist that helps and provides a peace of mind... It gets stressful and uncomfortable with other people’s recommendations and advice.”

“[The program] has helped me eat right, given me resources about [getting] credit reports, and [the home visitor] gives me useful information weekly. She is my eye out in the community. My home visitor looks out for me.”

“It has helped me with emotional support. The home visitor [gives me] advice [about how] to take care of my baby, and motivates me to attend my appointments and go to school.”

“It has made my fiancé more aware of things and how to deal with and take care of the baby. And it has made him a more excited and better father.”

The Impact of Home Visiting Services on Families



For more information on the WestEd MIECHV External Evaluation, contact Karen Moran Finello (Principal Investigator) at kfinell@wested.org.