

Share Your Story...

Illinois Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Development Home Visiting Program

Home visiting has a demonstrated track record of improving infant and maternal health outcomes. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, it is providing a critical way to engage children and families who are especially vulnerable during this time. Home visitors are on the front lines in supporting families by going above and beyond to quickly adapt and find creative ways to meet the basic needs of children and families.

Through its “Share Your Story” initiative, the Illinois Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program in the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development has provided an opportunity for home visitors to share on-the-ground stories of their experiences, including the bright spots as well as challenges. The focus of these stories is to bring attention to the amazing work they do, to share what has been working in serving families, and to illustrate how home visitors can be supported to continue carrying out their work.

Family Focus DuPage

Home visitors from Family Focus DuPage have worked diligently to balance their professional and personal lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have adjusted their office hours and schedules in order to support families that are part of their program. They have also increased their use of technology in their work with colleagues and families.



One home visitor from this program helped a family with school-aged children to ensure that they were connected to school, receiving all school communications about materials needed for e-learning at home, and accessing resources for overcoming barriers in language abilities to complete assignments and day-to-day work.

Daily responsibilities and tasks have shifted for the Family Focus DuPage staff in numerous ways—they now participate in Zoom meetings with their colleagues and program participants. Mayra Gonzalez,

Family Support Specialist, Family Focus DuPage, commented that, “In between Zoom meetings and family visits, I spend time preparing materials and resources that would benefit the family.” She has found books that would be interesting and fun to read to children and families over Zoom and has assisted families in connecting with food pantries, unemployment services, and links to job applications. Mayra stressed the importance of sticking to a routine—for herself and the families she supports.



Agency Mission

The mission of Family Focus is, “[T]o promote the well-being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening families in and with their communities. We help parents gain confidence and competence as the primary caregivers and educators of their children. We provide parents and their children with critical resources and learning opportunities to encourage healthy development in their communities.”

"It's not always what it seems."

