

<b>POLICY-STANDARD PROCEDURE</b>	
Title: Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development: Paternal Engagement in Home Visiting	Area: Family Partnerships: Paternal Engagement
	Date Effective: 12/2015

- **POLICY:** It is the policy of all MIECHV Home Visiting Programs to employ all efforts to engage paternal involvement and participation in the maternal and child home visiting model. Delegates should refer to their specific model and use the curriculum available to address the many important roles and responsibilities of fathers. Home visits with fathers are not necessarily different from the way mother-centered home visits are planned, but the emphasis on achieving self-sufficiency and personal responsibility appears greater. The general goal is to improve the life of the father as a whole—as a parent, a provider, and a member of the community—and thus visits may require individualized case management. Home visitors or program family specialists may help fathers with job hunting and finding housing and transportation, in addition to teaching fathers about child development. The home visitor is there to provide a positive role model and to help the father navigate social services and other systems to find employment, to manage his finances, and to become a stable presence for his kids. When home visitors discuss parenting, they emphasize forming a positive relationship with the child, using developmentally appropriate discipline strategies, and communicating effectively with the child’s mother. This attention to family dynamics through adult learning principles will lay the foundation for paternal engaging and involvement so that the child has a secure base in her/his formative years.
- **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a recommended process for MIECHV home visiting staff to engage and educate active males in the areas of child development while empowering them as an educated and important partner in the rearing of target child.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **Home Visiting Program Staff** will use assigned model and curriculum to address paternal involvement through education and case management to ensure resource connections are established and referral follow-ups occur based on identified needs of active males and family goals which may include but are not limited to vocational and educational services, financial literacy, housing, clinical services, child development and legal advocacy.
2. **Family** will identify whether an active male will be involved in the rearing and care of target child. The mother and father will work with home visiting staff to develop family goals and make clear the areas of need so proper education, training and advocacy can occur. When possible, peer mentoring will occur from male to male participants in an effort to establish a network of support and collaboration amongst active males.

**SCOPE:**

**MIECHV Home Visiting** (Paternal engagement)