



March 24, 2026

Chair Teresa Tanzi
Human Service Subcommittee
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **Governor's FY 2027 Budget, vis a vis the Department of Health**

Dear Chair Tanzi and members of the Committee,

We are writing today regarding the Department of Health's FY27 budget and the important need to adequately fund the state's home visiting programs. We write today to urge you to make sure that Rhode Island meets the state funding matching requirements for the federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds to draw down federal funds so that high-quality programs, such as Healthy Families America and Parents as Teachers, are offered to all families who could benefit.

For over 190 years, we at Children's Friend have worked to advance the well-being and healthy development of the youngest and most vulnerable children in Rhode Island. Today, alongside our permanency, nutrition services, child care, Head Start and Pre-K programs, **we serve 354 in our Healthy Families America program which is funded by MIECHV.** Last year we closed our Nurse Family Partnership home visiting program because we could not sustain the program with the current funding model.

Despite the important role that home visiting programs play in ensuring families and young children start off on the right foot, since 2021 the number of families in Rhode Island receiving family home visiting services has declined by thirty-two percent (32%) due to staffing shortages and funding challenges; and 9 programs have closed. Rhode Island needs to be doing more to ensure we are maximizing federal funding to stabilize these programs.

Board of Directors

Carmen A. Mirabal
Chairwoman

Kimberly I. McCarthy, Esq.
Vice Chairwoman

Kyle O. Mason
Treasurer

Benjamin J. Mellino
Assistant Treasurer

Bahjat Y. Shariff
Secretary

Kamilah A'Vant

Mary Cram

Rosa E. De Castillo

Ana Echevarria De Saquic

Mark Griffin

Maureen Gurghigian

Leonard L. Lopes, Esq.

Ivette C. Luna

Susan Carney Lynch, Esq.

Oliver Majewski

Eduardo E. Naya

Martha Newcomb, Esq.

Aneri A. Patel

David Caprio
President and
Chief Executive Officer



Unfortunately, Rhode Island has been leaving federal funds on the table. In FY24, Rhode Island was one (1) of four (4) states that didn't get the full match. In FY25, Rhode Island was one (1) of seven (7) states that didn't get the full match. (see the fact sheet on page 2)

Last year, Rhode Island only put in \$56,000 of the \$356,000 required match amount to draw down the maximum 3:1 federal match. This meant we left \$900,000 on the table that went to another state instead.

For FY27, Rhode Island should make the \$535,000 investment in order to receive \$1.6 million in federal funding to fund these vital programs.

This relatively small investment is not included in the Governor's proposed FY27 budget request, although we understand the state has found \$390,000 of matching dollars to use toward the match. We urge you to include at least \$145,000 of general revenue into the RIDOH budget to ensure we can meet the federal match. We also hope you will work to guarantee that RIDOH allocates these federal funds in a flexible way to support the current families and communities these programs serve.

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony.

Sincerely,

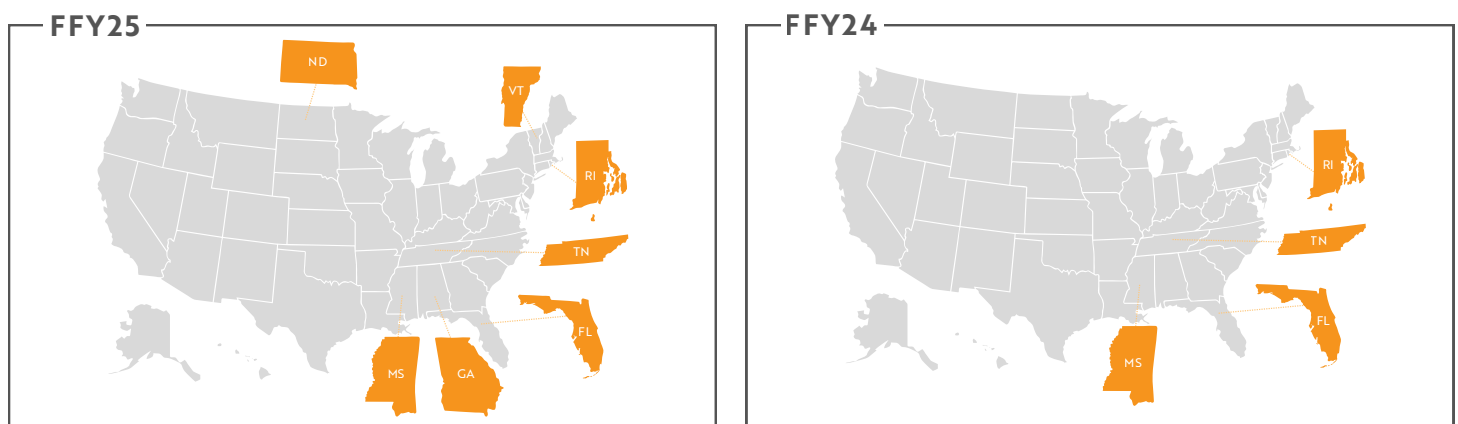
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Caprio", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Caprio
President and CEO

UNDERSTANDING THE MIECHV FUNDING FORMULA

Beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2024, states have the opportunity to secure additional funding for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Programs. To be eligible, states must designate general funds to support evidence-based home visiting initiatives. In return, the federal government will provide a matching amount of \$3 for every \$1 contributed by the state annually, up to a limit determined by each state's population data.

States that failed to draw down the full MIECHV match



Source: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/about-us/miechv-program-grant-amounts-fy26-fy25-fy24.pdf>

Rhode Island's MIECHV Funding Match Challenge

Federal Fiscal Year	RI Match Challenge Amount	RI General Funds Allocated	MIECHV Matching Funds Secured	MIECHV Matching Funds Available	Funding Not Secured
FFY24	\$242,000	\$200,000	\$600,000	\$726,000	\$126,000
FFY25	\$356,000	\$56,000	\$168,000	\$1,068,000	\$900,000
FFY26	\$535,000*	TBD	TBD	\$1,605,000	TBD
FFY27	\$787,000*	TBD	TBD	\$2,361,000	TBD

*projected amount

Sources: Congressional Research Service. (2022). Memorandum to House Ways and Means Committee: Estimates of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funding allocation under a draft reauthorization proposal. Rhode Island Department of Health. State applications for MIECHV funds, FFY2024 and FFY2025.