

Federal Requirements for Meeting Legislatively-Mandated Benchmarks

To meet the requirements around quantifiable, measurable improvement in benchmark areas, each grantee must provide a proposal for the initial and ongoing data collection for each of the six benchmark areas. The following are parameters around the benchmark data collection:

- The grantee must collect data on all benchmark areas.
- The data must be collected for eligible families that have been enrolled⁶ in the program who receive services funded with the MIECHV Program funds.
- Each benchmark area includes multiple constructs. States must collect data for all constructs under each benchmark area.
- If the same construct appears in more than one benchmark area, States may utilize the same data for each applicable benchmark area. These instances are noted in the specific discussion of each benchmark area.
- To demonstrate improvements in at least four benchmark areas by the end of three years, the State must show improvement in at least half of the constructs under each benchmark area.
- Standard measures for the constructs within a benchmark area across home visiting models (if more than one home visiting model is implemented within a State) are strongly encouraged.
- We recommend that programs utilize these and other appropriate data for CQI to enhance program operation and decision-making and to individualize services.⁷ Technical assistance will be provided to assist grantees in utilizing data for CQI.
- States may propose either to collect data on each participating family or to use a sampling approach for some or all benchmark areas.
- At a later date, a template will be provided for grantees to report to HHS on benchmark progress at the 3- and 5-year points.
- The measures proposed by States must be developmentally appropriate measures for the corresponding constructs and appropriate for use with the populations served by the home visiting program.
- For the purposes of the benchmark requirement, it is recommended that data collected across all benchmark areas be coordinated and aligned with other relevant State or local data collection efforts (e.g., link data on children/families served by the state home visiting program to data on the same children/families served by early childhood, child welfare, health care or other programs). In addition to the reporting requirements for each benchmark area, applicants must collect individual-level demographic and service-utilization data on the participants in their program as necessary to analyze and understand the progress children and families are making. Individual-level demographic and service-utilization data may include but are not limited to the following:
 - Family's participation rate in the home visiting program (e.g., number of sessions/number of possible sessions, duration of sessions);
 - Demographic data for the participant child(ren), pregnant woman, expectant father, parent(s), or primary caregiver(s) receiving home visiting services including: child's gender, age of all (including age in month for child) at each data collection point and racial and ethnic background of all participants in the family;
 - Participant child's exposure to languages other than English; and
 - Family socioeconomic indicators (e.g., family income, employment status).