

27 May 2025 | HIPPY US | [Request for Support](#)

Nikki's Corner

Dear HIPPY Community:

You may be hearing about potential changes to MIECHV and we want to provide you with an honest and accurate update. We remain in constant contact with our federal and home visiting partners, as such, this is accurate as of the time of distribution. As we learn more, we will notify you. For now, review this statement from the National Home Visiting Coalition.

If you have any questions, please insert them [here](#).

Nikki Martin-Bynum,
National Program Director



Dear home visiting advocates:

On Thursday, May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation bill that includes cuts to some programs like Medicaid and SNAP. The bill now goes to the Senate where additional changes are likely. The reconciliation bill contains no language about the MIECHV program.

However, because the reconciliation bill raises the deficit by several trillion dollars, the bill triggers automatic spending cuts under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act. PAYGO has similarly been triggered in most previous reconciliation bills including under both the Biden administration and first Trump administration. Each time, the automatic cuts have been resolved in separate legislation and have not taken effect.

If PAYGO were to take effect it would result in billions of dollars of cuts across many programs including Medicare and smaller programs such as MIECHV. We have spoken with staff on the relevant committees as well as lead MIECHV supporters in Congress who do not support cutting MIECHV, and we feel hopeful that this issue will be remedied later in the year. We know that the PAYGO issues are creating uncertainty - we will be closely tracking this throughout the year and will continue to keep you informed. At this time we do not believe a call to action in defense of MIECHV is needed, but we will be in touch as things progress.

We can say with certainty that there continues to be strong congressional support for MIECHV, thanks to the hard work you all do every day! We'll continue to update all of you and hope that everyone enjoys a relaxing holiday weekend,

Sincerely,

-The National Home Visiting Coalition Steering Committee

Celebrating Our Time Together: A Look Back at the 2025 HIPPY US Conference

The HIPPY US 2025 National Conference in Baltimore was a powerful and inspiring gathering of home visiting professionals from across the country. Together, we explored new ideas, shared experiences, and celebrated the vital work we do to support families.

We extend our deepest thanks to everyone who made this event possible—from the engaged attendees and insightful presenters to the tireless volunteers and, especially, our phenomenal conference committee. This incredible team spent over a year planning every detail to ensure a meaningful and memorable experience for our HIPPY community. Your effort and vision truly brought the conference to life, and we cannot thank you enough.

Highlights included the Home Visitor Rally, the Dr. Avima D. Lombard Gala, informative workshops, dynamic discussions during our Town Hall and regional meetings, and unforgettable moments during HIPPY Fun Night and Hill Day in Washington, D.C.

Professional Development Certificates

All attendees should have received their certificates for professional development credit. If you have not yet received yours, please reach out through our [Support Portal](#), and we'll be happy to assist.

Photo Gallery Now Available!

Relive the energy and connection from each day of the conference:

[📸 Sunday Gallery](#) | [Monday Gallery](#) | [Tuesday Gallery](#)

Thank you again for being part of such a vibrant and successful event. We are honored to be in this work with each of you and look forward to gathering again soon.



Connecting Hearts, Igniting Minds



If you missed it or just want to relive the moment then check out the [Conference Video](#)

Curriculum Updates

Bridge Curriculum

Bridge into Summer: A Look Back and a Step Forward

Thank you to everyone who attended the HIPPY US National Conference in April! It was inspiring to see so many of you engage in the Bridge Curriculum sessions. If you missed any of the sessions, don't worry—there are several previously recorded trainings and helpful resources available in [the HIPPY Library](#). You can also find the [brand new resource guide](#) and the [slides from the conference presentation](#).

As we move into summer, there's still time to plan a meaningful summer experience for your families. The Bridge Curriculum continues to be an option for sites looking to prevent summer learning loss while keeping parents actively involved. [Feedback from last year](#), including responses from HIPPY Texas, showed high satisfaction with the curriculum's ease of use, engaging visuals, and culturally rich content. Families especially appreciated the bilingual resources and the global themes woven throughout the lessons.

The Bridge Curriculum is fully in-stock and ready to ship! We're eager to hear how families respond to these updates. Let us know your thoughts and any feedback you gather from families!

Plan ahead and [order](#) your Bridge Curriculum today!

Curriculum Refresh

The CR team has just finished edits through week 28 and will be submitting their final edit corrections by the end of May. The edits will be reviewed and sent to publishing for fixes to be made in the curriculum packets over the following months. If any sites have suggested corrections to be made, please have them use the form: [How to Use the HIPPY Curriculum Feedback Forms](#) to submit before the end of May.

Exciting Updates on HIPPY Activity Packets!

If you attended the recent conference, you had a chance to see the new-look activity packets firsthand—and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

Even better: There will be no increase in cost for the 2025-26 program year. The updated packets are thoughtfully designed to be more environmentally friendly, with double-sided pages to resemble a booklet format. Pages that need to remain one-sided—like those with instructions on the back or that need to be cut out—were carefully reviewed. While a few pages were initially overlooked, a follow-up review will ensure any remaining issues are addressed for future print runs.

As we transition, the new format will roll out gradually as existing inventory is used. Programs may receive a mix of packet styles across different weeks, but every effort will be made to ensure each individual week's packet is consistent in format (per order). We anticipate that Weeks 1–15 will be fully transitioned to the new format by the end of 2025, with Weeks 16+ transitioning in 2026.

Special Announcements

Annual Report

It's time to complete The HUS 2024-2025 Annual Report.

For your convenience, The HUS 2024-2025 Annual Report and guidance document is now complete

- a. The **guidance document** contains both the link to the live form in Monday and a link to a PDF in which sites can use to preview the form before completing the live version
- b. **Notable changes include:**
 - i. Additional questions about parent and child assessments,
 - ii. The addition of more "unknown" fields where sites can specify when they don't have complete data.

Program Year 24-25 End of Year (EOY) Survey

As we approach the close of another successful school year, we want to take a moment to hear from you. If you haven't had a chance to share your thoughts and opinions about this program year including the 2025 HIPPY US National Conference, Please take a few moments to complete the **2024-2025 Program Year: End of Year Survey** by **May 30, 2025**



Program Highlight: Alabama HIPPY

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education's First Teacher Home Visiting Coordinators and Lead Home Visitors recently participated in **Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN)** training, held in Mobile and Tuscaloosa. FAN is an evidence-based framework designed to support providers in fostering attuned interactions with families. Its primary goal is to strengthen the provider-parent relationship, promoting parental attunement to their infants and encouraging new, positive ways of engagement.

The training was facilitated by **Beth Jones, MSW, IECMH-E, PPEER** Project Director for Infant & Early Childhood Special Programs, and **LaWana Kennedy, LPC, BC-TMH, ECMH-E**, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant with the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

Through FAN, practitioners enhance their ability to read and respond to both parent and self-cues with empathy and insight. In addition, this training equips Home Visiting leadership with the tools to implement **Reflective Supervision** practices statewide, further supporting a culture of responsive, relationship-based service delivery.



CHECK IT OUT

You Should Know!

Double Success by Sharing It!

Congratulations to the HIPPY teams who had an endorsement site visit in 2024-2025! This year, we asked sites in the national endorsement process to share their success stories. As we all learned in preparation for legislative visits after our national conference in Baltimore, sharing success stories inspires, and fosters a sense of community. As we enter “end of year celebration” territory, make sure to invite community leaders, legislators and the media to your special events! If they don't attend, follow up by sharing stories such as this one from a HIPPY parent from Amarillo Coalition of Health Services:

“In November 2024, my daughter was tested on letters, numbers, and shapes. At that time, I felt overwhelmed and unsure if I could effectively support her learning or even be the teacher she needed. I didn't know where to start or how to help her catch up in school. Through the HIPPY program, my Home Visitor provided encouragement and guidance, helping me adapt the curriculum to my child's needs. Their support gave me the confidence to be consistent and determined in my approach. By February, my daughter's progress was remarkable. A new school assessment showed she now knows all her shapes, recognizes numbers up to 9, and can sound out and identify all but six letters of the alphabet—an incredible improvement from November when she recognized only six letters. HIPPY empowered me as a parent and helped set my child up for success. I am so proud of her growth and grateful for the support that made this journey possible.

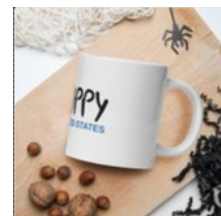
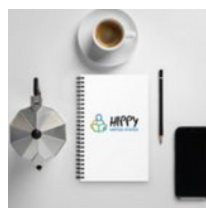
Assistant Coordinator Guidance

Management of a HIPPY program is done by a full-time (or full-time equivalent) professional coordinator, who is responsible for a maximum of 180 children. Additional support will be needed if implementing more than 3 years (see [Administrative Checklist Item 3](#)). As a site grows in complexity or number of families served, many agencies look to hiring an assistant coordinator, sometimes called a lead home visitor (this role may have a different job title, established by an agency's human resources department). [This new document](#), developed by HIPPY US in collaboration with the HIPPY State Offices, uses the terms lead home visitor and assistant coordinator interchangeably, and provides guidance and templates that can be used to establish and supervise this position. If you have any questions about this position, contact your State Office, or Carla Mowell at HUS if you're an Independent Site.

HIPPY Swag Store

Are you in search of the ideal HIPPY Thank You gift?

Head over to the [HIPPY Swag Store](#) and make your [purchase today!](#)



A Peer Support Opportunity with HVWFD and the Jackie Walorski Center for Evidence-Based Case Management! (See message below)

Join Our National FREE Community of Practice for Home Visiting Supervisors! Connect, Share, and Grow with Home Visiting Supervisors Nationwide! Calling All Home Visiting Supervisors! Are you looking for an opportunity to build connections with peers, share innovative practices, and engage in a space focused on your professional growth?

[Click Here for the Interest Form!](#)

The Institute for Home Visiting Workforce Development is launching a free Community of Practice (CoP) dedicated to Supporting and Retaining a Thriving Home Visiting Workforce. This Community of Practice is designed specifically for home visiting supervisors to come together, share real-life challenges, exchange ideas, and strengthen supervision and leadership skills.

Who Should Join?

Up to 60 home visiting supervisors (for HIPPY, this would be Coordinators) from across the U.S., including all states, territories, Tribal communities, and across all program models and funding sources—regardless of years of experience.

What to expect?

Each year we will take a deep-dive focus on a key topic related to workforce retention and well-being. For this year we are asking for attendance at six virtual meetings (1 hour each), held every other month on the 2nd Wednesday, from 2–3 PM ET:

- July 9, 2025
- Sept 10, 2025
- Nov 12, 2025
- Jan 14, 2026
- Mar 11, 2026
- May 13, 2026

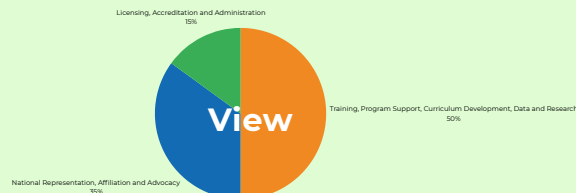
HIPPY International

HIPPY in Liberia

HIPPY has been operating in Liberia for 9 years now and was recently highlighted in a new UNESCO book. Dr. Miriam Westheimer is a co-author (there were many!) of the chapter. It is always encouraging to see HIPPY highlighted in global publications.

[Family and Intergenerational Literacy and Learning: International Case Studies.](#)

Following an examination of the 23-24 End of Year Survey, HIPPY International highlighted the role of license fees in supporting HIPPY US operations.



Click on the image above to view PowerPoint presentation

Excelling with MGRA: Endorsed, Recognized and Stellar.

What's in it for me? Our goal is for all HIPPY programs to have an opportunity to demonstrate implementation of HIPPY with fidelity, every 5 years. In an effort to clarify the minimum standards, while also recognizing creative strategies and exceptional implementation of the HIPPY model, we are piloting strategies to identify and recognize programs' implementation of the HIPPY model. This is an exciting and big leap for us! We may try out different incentives and recognitions based on availability and other factors.

Through the endorsement process, a program demonstrates quality of implementation to a Model Fidelity Specialist. They are in monthly contact, culminating in a 2 day on-site visit. Prior to the visit, the program's self-assessment team reviews documentation and prepares a report outlining how the program implements each program standard. The Specialist reviews documentation and makes in-person observations of program elements. Some documentation may be reviewed prior to the visit.

The Specialist reports their observation and validation of the standards to HIPPY US, the state office (if applicable) and the site that was visited. As a result of their findings, a site will be granted Nationally Endorsed status if they score a minimum of 1 point in each standard. They will be conferred Nationally Recognized status if they receive a minimum of 1 point in each standard, and a score of 2 on at least one standard. The top 10% of the Nationally Endorsed sites in any given year will be awarded Stellar Status. By differentiating among Endorsed, Recognized and Stellar programs, the national office ensures that programs are implemented with fidelity (Endorsed), that we recognize creative strategies and innovations (Exceptional) and we highlight the top tier programs in the network (Stellar).

As we delve into these designations and the benefits associated with each level, we will continue to explore various options and methods of recognizing sites for their accomplishments. Some examples of recognitions include:

Nationally Endorsed sites will receive:

- Recognition in the newsletter, website and during national conference
- Graphics to use on email signature, social media etc.
- Coordinator or designee invited to private reception at the National Conference
- Trial 3.0 account to experience the digital platform

In addition to the above, Nationally Recognized sites will receive:

- Coordinator and a guest invited to private reception at the National Conference
- Additional trial 3.0 accounts

In addition to the above, Stellar sites will receive:

- Featured post on the website and newsletter
- The coordinator designates a team member to go to the conference with a waived registration fee
- Credit for S&S Worldwide
- Credit at the HIPPY Store
- Free LMS training
- Larger trial of 3.0 accounts

We hope these added levels of recognition will add some fun and excitement to the endorsement process. Remember that! Fun and excitement. It's not about winners and losers. Recognizing, growing and improving - that's what we're aiming for. We want everyone going through this process to identify areas of excellence and areas in which they could grow or stretch, or areas where they need more support or information. That means that even the Endorsed, Recognized and Stellar sites are expected to continuously identify possible improvements, and our Specialists, State Office and HIPPY US staff are here to support that! We are also collecting questions and concerns [via this form](#).



Preservice

Preservice: Supervisor and Coordinator

We're thrilled to announce the relaunch of Supervisor Preservice on June 1, 2025! This comprehensive training is designed to equip supervisors with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support their HIPPY program. The training includes self-paced online modules in the Learning Management System (LMS) and optional webinar sessions. [View the Supervisor Preservice Flyer with this link.](#)

For those enrolling in Coordinator Preservice, the LMS relaunched on May 5, 2025, allowing participants to begin their self-paced training online. The in-person session will be held from September 22-25, 2025 in Little Rock, Arkansas. This session will provide valuable hands-on learning and networking opportunities with fellow coordinators. View the [Coordinator Preservice Flyer with this link.](#)

Registration is now open! To secure your spot, complete your registration and submit payment as soon as possible. To register, [access our registration form with this link.](#) We look forward to supporting you on this journey!

Advocacy

Support AmeriCorps and Head Start!

Federal funding streams some of your sister HIPPY programs rely on to serve families are currently under threat. In particular, earlier this month the Administration proposed the complete elimination of AmeriCorps. This proposal comes in the wake of an unexpected move in April in which the Administration dismissed 85% of AmeriCorps agency staff and announced the termination of \$400 million in grant program funding for the agency, prematurely ending the service-based work of over 32,000 volunteers across more than 1,000 programs. Sadly, HIPPY programs across the nation were directly impacted by these grant terminations. If you would like to contact your Members of Congress in support of AmeriCorps, please check out the links below:

[Contact your member of Congress to protect AmeriCorps](#)

[Share your AmeriCorps stories](#)

Additionally, while Head Start funding remained untouched in the President's FY26 "skinny" budget, many other critical programs that Head Start families rely on are on the chopping block, and continued pressure is needed to urge members of Congress to prioritize funding Head Start and adjacent programs in the appropriations process. Please consider visiting the links below to read and sign the National Head Start Association's letter to the President and email your members of Congress urging them to maintain Head Start and other critical support programs:

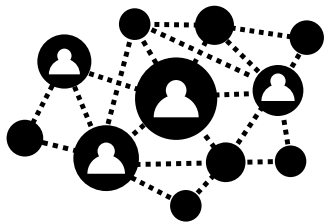
[NHSA Letter to the President](#)

[Email your member of Congress to protect Head Start](#)

Let the Appropriations Process Begin

Earlier this month an important first step was taken for the annual appropriations process when the [President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 \(FY26\)](#) was released. This "skinny" version of the President's budget is light on details but gives a high-level overview of funding requests the Administration is recommending to Congress. Notably, the document recommends eliminating AmeriCorps and Preschool Development Grants but says Title I funding will be "preserved" at an unspecified amount. Unsurprisingly, this very skinny version of the budget request does not include recommendations around smaller federal programs such as MIECHV. In positive news, Head Start, which in a leaked version of the budget was proposed to be eliminated, seems to have been spared and the Administration is now recommending maintaining existing funding levels for the program. This change in tune around Head Start is a timely reminder to all of us that there is power in collectively raising our voices.

While the President's budget request is an important part of kicking off FY26, ultimately these funding decisions are made by Congress, not the White House. There is a common saying in Washington when it comes to annual appropriations-- "The President proposes, and Congress disposes". Meaning, it is common for Congress to take very little direction from the Administration when it comes to these types of funding decisions. Now that the process has officially kicked off, Congress is quickly turning its attention to FY26 and has begun holding hearings and doing other necessary work needed to draft bills. While the October 1 deadline to pass these bills may seem far away, a new President's budget request is typically shared in February, meaning this process is already months behind schedule. Folks in Washington are skeptical with the current gridlock that Congress will be able to accomplish their work in time without facing a potential government shutdown. We will continue to share updates as the FY26 process continues to develop.



CONNECT



Stay Connected

Newsletter Request

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list of newsletter recipients click [this](#) link to complete a request.

Library

For additional resources, visit the [HIPPY library](#).
Library Password:
Connecting

Request for Support

If you would like support, have feedback or want to ask a questions go [here](#) to connect with a HIPPY US team member today!

**DON'T
FORGET!**

- Reach out if you would like to [connect with Nikki](#)
- Check out HIPPY highlights in the new [UNESCO book](#)
- Check out the [2025 HIPPY US National Conference highlight Video](#)
- Review last year's [Bridge Curriculum feedback](#) form
 - [brand new resource guide](#)
 - [slides from the conference presentation](#)
- [Order](#) your Summer Bridge Curriculum
- Provide your curriculum refresh feedback by accessing, [How to Use the HIPPY Curriculum Feedback Forms](#)
- Review the [Annual Survey Guidance](#) document
- Complete the [2024–2025 Program Year: End of Year Survey](#) by **May 30, 2025**.
- Check out [HIPPY Alabama Program Highlight](#) on the HUS website.
- Check out the **Assistant Coordinator Guidance resources**:
 - [Administrative Checklist](#)
 - [This new document](#)
- **Advocate for your State**
 - [Contact your member of Congress to protect AmeriCorps](#)
 - [Share your AmeriCorps stories](#)
 - [NHSA Letter to the President](#)
 - [Email your member of Congress to protect Head Start](#)
 - [President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 \(FY26\)](#)
- [Visit the HIPPY Store](#) to order your HIPPY swag
- Review and Register for Preservice
 - [Supervisor Preservice](#)
 - [Coordinator Preservice](#)
- [Visit the HIPPY Library](#) for additional resources including:
 - Recruitment Coloring Book and Story Book
- [Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#) to the Bi-monthly Newsletter
- [Submit your request for support](#) for individualize help from a HIPPY US Team Member
- Check out the [MGRA On-Demand Webinar](#) and learn more about endorsement.



Paying by Check

If you are paying for **HIPPY US related products and services** and would like to pay by check, **remit checks** to:

HIPPY US
2727 Palisade Ave, Suite 6J
Bronx, NY 10463

If you have any questions or run into issues, reach out to us through the [Request for Support](#) board for personalized assistance.