The goal of the Touchpoints for Addressing Substance Abuse in Home Visiting project is to generate knowledge about how home visiting programs, including those funded through HRSA’s and ACF’s Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, engage and support families around prevention, treatment, and recovery from substance abuse and addiction. The project will identify evidence-informed practices for working with families, supporting frontline staff, and building collaborations with referral sources. The project will also identify gaps in knowledge on preventing or addressing substance abuse within the context of home visiting.

The project includes the development of an overarching conceptual model and a series of detailed models that reflect the pathways (i.e., touchpoints) through which home visiting programs can address substance abuse among families. To inform the models, the team will review relevant documentation and literature and engage stakeholders and expert consultants from home visiting, child welfare, substance abuse, and public health fields. In addition, an optional service component, if elected, will develop design options for a range of studies that have the potential to inform a research agenda related to addressing substance abuse in the context of home visiting programs.

The project will produce reports, practitioner-friendly briefs, and other actionable resources to provide information for State, Territory, and Tribal MIECHV grantees and home visiting programs working to prevent, identify, and treat substance abuse and serving families dealing with substance abuse problems.

The project was awarded to Mathematica with subcontracts to Northwestern University and Institute for Health and Recovery.

This project is being led by the Administration for Children and Families in collaboration with the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The points of contacts are Nicole Denmark and Kathleen Dwyer.