



**east bay community action program**  
THE BRIDGE to SELF-RELIANCE

RILWAN K. FEYISITAN, JR.  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*

EAST BAY  
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

4/22/2025

Honorable Chairman Marvin L. Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
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Providence, RI 02903

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Headquarters  
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**Re: Support of the Family Home Visiting Bill H-6073**

Dear Honorable Chairman Abney and House Finance Committee Members,

East Bay Community Action Program writes in strong support of Representative Giraldo's Home Visiting bill H6073 and encourages you to ensure that Rhode Island adequately funds the state's home visiting programs.

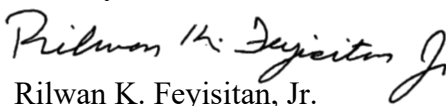
East Bay Community Action Program runs a Healthy Families of America program, one of the Family Visiting models in Rhode Island. It is funded by Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds. Healthy Families America is a national, evidence-based program that serves expectant mothers and children up to age five in their homes. It is an essential service for many children because, starting from birth, children develop brain connections through their everyday experiences. They build these connections through positive interactions with their parents and caregivers and by using their senses to interact with the world. A young child's daily experiences determine which brain connections develop and which will last for a lifetime. The amount and quality of care, stimulation, and interaction they receive in their early years make a lifelong difference. East Bay Community Action Program's Healthy Families is a lifeline for many families who struggle to find the stability and support they need to help their children develop. The funding of this bill is crucial to the continuation of this very underfunded program.

As required in H6073, Rhode Island must meet the state funding matching requirements for the federal MIECHV funds to draw down federal funds so that high-quality programs are offered to all families who could benefit.

In FY25, Rhode Island was one of only 3 states that did not spend the required amount to draw down the full amount. **For FFY26, Rhode Island should make the \$355,374 investment in order to receive \$1.6 million to fund these vital programs.** This investment is not included in the Governor's proposed FY26 budget, and we do not think RIDOH currently has the funds to meet the match. We urge you to pass H6073 to add the \$355,0374 into the RIDOH budget to ensure we can meet the federal match.

We also support the increased reporting requirements included in H6073, so that the general assembly can help ensure the ongoing sustainability of these important programs.

Thank you.

  
Rilwan K. Feyisitan, Jr.