**GOAL:**
Conduct a needs assessment to determine the nutrition work needed to address health inequities, and identify gaps in nutrition messaging within perinatal home visiting programs to improve health outcomes.

The Indiana Children’s Healthy Weight CoIIN team developed a two-pronged approach within their innovative nutrition project. They recognized the importance of integrating nutrition-related questions into their needs assessment of MCH populations in order to help inform the work they would be undertaking statewide over the next five years. They also sought to identify gaps occurring in nutrition messaging within perinatal home visiting programs in an effort to improve health outcomes.

**METHODOLOGY**
- Leveraged strong working relationship between the state’s departments of nutrition and MCH to forge stronger work integration
- Identified the need to incorporate nutrition questions into state’s needs assessment in order to determine key nutrition work within the five-year plan
- Worked closely with Title V Steering Committee to ensure nutrition data collection was incorporated into needs assessment
- Recognized the perinatal period as one where nutrition integration needed strengthening
- Pinpointed perinatal home visits as an important touchpoint for identifying gaps in nutrition messaging

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- Conducted statewide needs assessment through online survey and focus groups
- Used results from needs assessment to inform nutrition-related work for the maternal and child health population
- Compiled database of home visiting services and nutrition curricula being used
- Surveyed home visiting services to determine gaps in nutrition materials and messages
- Created print and electronic bilingual nutritional materials for home visitors to provide consistent nutrition messaging across the state
- Continue to expand internal and external relationships and partnerships to address health inequities arising from nutrition

**PARTICIPANTS & PARTNERS**
- Indiana Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Indiana Maternal and Child Health
- Indiana SNAP-Ed

**TITLE V PROGRAM CONNECTION**
- Title V Director and Title V Coordinator closely involved
- Five Title V staff engaged
- One Title V staff trained

**“Nutrition is a right, not a privilege.”**

**INDIANA CoIIN**

**Innovative Nutrition Workstream**

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