

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHY START COALITIONS** is dedicated to strengthening maternal and child health by ensuring all Florida families have access to a continuum of affordable and quality care and services. We do this through our primary program, Healthy Start, but also through our programs MIECHV and MomCare, and public awareness campaigns. Many of our coalitions participate in the National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, which consists of county wide efforts to better understand the issues associated with fetal and infant mortality and morbidity, and to develop strategies that improve perinatal systems of care, locally and statewide. Unfortunately, the costs of a poor birth outcome are great, not only on a personal level but also on a financial and societal level. By investing in Healthy Start we invest in our communities and Florida's future.

**KNOWS WHAT  
TO EXPECT  
DURING  
PREGNANCY**

**HAS RESOURCES  
FOR 2-YEAR-OLD  
DAUGHTER AND  
BABY-TO-BE**

**QUIT  
SMOKING  
DURING  
PREGNANCY**

**BEGAN  
PRENATAL  
CARE IN FIRST  
TRIMESTER**

**PRACTICES  
BETTER  
PARENTING**

**BREASTFEEDS  
BABY**



# FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHY START COALITIONS

**FROM THE DIRECTOR** Healthy Start is celebrating 25 years of success in Florida. Since its inception, infant mortality rates in the state have decreased more than 35%. This is a significant accomplishment and my gratitude goes to all the participants and their contributions: our client's voluntary participation; the dedication of our board officers; the team members of all 32 Coalitions; healthcare and social services providers throughout the state; the Florida Department of Health and Agency for Healthcare Administration; and our state legislators. With your continuing support, the next 25 years should prove even more successful. This upcoming fiscal year, we will be releasing a new system of care for Healthy Start. The system offers proven, targeted services for mothers and babies, leveraging community resources, integrating evidence based interventions and coordinating with Medicaid managed care. Thank you for working together on our shared vision that every baby deserves a Healthy Start!—*Jim Bracher*



## INVEST IN HEALTHY START

### TO OUR STATE LEGISLATORS

#### ISSUE 1: Enhanced Services for Drug Addicted Pregnant Women and Drug Exposed Infants

Healthy Start's goal is to strategically place Family Engagement Specialists across Florida to provide outreach, education and service coordination for pregnant women addicted to drugs and families with a baby born drug exposed. This model, based on a successful project in Flagler and Volusia counties, connects mothers with treatment resources and coordinates a range of services.

**REQUEST: \$3.8 million** in general revenue to provide new services to mothers with substance exposed newborns and pregnant women addicted to drugs.

#### ISSUE 2: Newly Designed Healthy Start System of Care

Beginning July 2018, Healthy Start, at the direction of and in partnership with DOH and AHCA, will implement a new model and system of care to achieve even greater impact on infant mortality, prematurity and healthy child development. The new system of care include: a coordinated (central) intake and referral infrastructure; standardized, evidence based screening and interventions within home visiting programs; an evidence based inter-conception care program; and enhanced coordination with the health plans. If no additional funding is received, services for families will need to be triaged by cutting services to 7,400 high risk women and babies.

**REQUEST: \$7.18 million** in state general revenue. We will draw down an additional \$6.32 million in federal match for the Medicaid portion of services.

#### ISSUE 3: Medicaid Funding Shortfall

Healthy Start Medicaid funding has not been sufficient to meet the needs for at-risk pregnant women and babies each year since the beginning of MMA. We have a three year total of more than \$7 million in unpaid services provided by the Healthy Start Coalitions. The number of Medicaid eligible pregnant women and infants served by Healthy Start has increased from 59,692 to 151,979 over the last four years, but there has been no increase in funding. Without the additional funding, approximately 5,500 pregnant women and infants will not receive services.

**REQUEST: \$1.3 million** in state general revenue which will draw down an additional \$2.1 million federal Medicaid match to cover the shortfall for 2017-18 services.

### FUNDING FY 2016-2017

Department of Health  
\$26,767,565

Agency for Health Care  
Administration  
\$41,172,757

Leveraged Funds  
>\$23,000,000

### FAHSC BOARD OFFICERS

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### CONTACT US

1311 N. Paul Russell Road, Suite D204  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: 850-999-6200  
[www.healthystartflorida.com](http://www.healthystartflorida.com)



## WOMEN & INFANTS SERVED BY HEALTHY START



Healthy Start Coalitions Screened **78%** of Pregnant Women in Florida for Health Risks in 2016



Families with Pregnant Women that Received a Healthy Start Service



Healthy Start Coalitions Screened **98%** of Infants in Florida for Health Risks in 2016



Families with Infants that Received a Healthy Start Service

MomCare  
Number of clients

137,985

MomCare offers outreach services to women enrolled in Medicaid to explain Medicaid options, facilitate care with healthcare providers, provide referrals to WIC and Healthy Start, and connect clients to community resources.

Infant mortality rates in Florida have decreased more than this amount since the program's inception.

35%