



Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health

Benita Baker, MS
Chief Perinatal Services Branch

Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services



Presentation Outline

- Healthy Start Program Overview
- Current State of Healthy Start
- Program Implementation
- Other DHSPS Activities



Program Purpose

- Established in 1991 as a presidential initiative
- Targets communities with high infant mortality rates and other adverse perinatal outcomes
- Addresses the needs of high-risk women and their families before, during, and after pregnancy
- Builds on the long-standing program structure with greater emphasis on evidence-based practices, standardized approaches, and quality improvements



Five Approaches

- Improve Women's Health
- Promote Quality Services
- Strengthen Family Resilience
- Achieve Collective Impact
- Increase Accountability through Quality Improvement, Performance Monitoring, and Evaluation

Funding Levels

- **Level 1: Community-Based Healthy Start Program**
 - implementation of five approaches
 - responsible for individual level effects
- **Level 2: Enhanced Services Healthy Start Program**
 - stimulate community collaboration and conduct performance measurement through FIMR, PPOR, and/or MMR
 - responsible for community level effect
- **Level 3: Leadership and Mentoring Healthy Start Program**
 - supports the provision of expanded maternal and women's health services and
 - supports the development of a place-based initiative that will serve as the backbone organization



Current Grantee Profile

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Type - number	60	22	18	100
Continuing	35	19	17	71
New	25	3	1	29
Population - number	60	22	18	100
Urban	41	19	17	77
Rural	15	3	0	18
Border	4	0	1	5

The New Healthy Start Community

November 1, 2014



Grant ends
May 31,
2016

-  9 Grants ended 1-31-2015
-  Level 2 (22 grants in 18 states)
-  Level 3 (18 grants in 15 states)
-  Level 1 (61 grants in 32 states)





Implementing Healthy Start 3.0

- Two new programs are being launched:
 - ✓ Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project (EPIC Center)
 - ✓ Healthy Start Monitoring and Evaluation System (HSMES)



Healthy Start EPIC Center

- Ensure skilled, well qualified workers at all levels of the program
- Identify and better define effective services and interventions
- Offer mentoring, education, and training to staff delivering these interventions and services
- Provide shared resources



Healthy Start Monitoring and Evaluation System (HSMES)

- Data Dashboard for real-time monitoring of progress of activities
- Individual client data, program data, and community outcome data for:
 - ✓ Continuous quality improvement
 - ✓ Provision of targeted technical assistance, and
 - ✓ Ongoing local and national evaluations



National Healthy Start Evaluation (NHSE)

- Determine the impact of Healthy Start in achieving its primary goals
- Determine community factors that maximize the impact of Healthy Start
- Determine the most effective means to invest Healthy Start resources
- Describe community assets in support of Healthy Start services



Other DHSPS Activities

- Infant Mortality CoIIN
- National Maternal Health Initiative



Infant Mortality CoIIN

- National Expansion Methodology
- Strategy Topic Areas
 - ✓ SIDS/SUID/Safe Sleep
 - ✓ Preconception/Interconception Health
 - ✓ Smoking Cessation
 - ✓ Prevention of Preterm and Early Term Births
 - ✓ Risk Appropriate Perinatal Care (Perinatal Regionalization)
 - ✓ Social Determinants of Health

National Maternal Health Initiative

- AIM: Maternal Health
 - ✓ Advance postpartum care
 - ✓ Promote women's health preventive services
- Federal Maternal Health Workgroup
 - ✓ Develop strategic plan for alignment & collaboration
 - ✓ Identify Areas of Need/Gaps & Challenges



Contact Information

Benita Baker

Chief Perinatal Services Branch

HRSA/MCHB/DHSPS

5600 Fishers Lane

Room 13-91

Rockville, MD 20857

Telephone: (301) 443-0543

Email: benita.baker@hrsa.hhs.gov