

Healthy Start – Who We Are



Better Birth Outcomes

Healthy Start has contributed to improvements in birth outcomes – infant mortality has declined to a rate of 6.1 in 2017. This is a decrease of 35% since the program began. Healthy Start Coalitions develop specialized services based on the needs of the diverse communities they serve. Although improvement has been made, efforts are focused on racial disparities in birth outcomes and related determinants of health such as poverty, trauma, and protective factors with a goal of health equity.

Evidence-Based

- Healthy Start has strengthened its services by implementing additional evidence-based risk evaluations and intervention components for pregnant women and newborns based on recommendations of the federally-funded Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative.

No Duplication of Services

- Healthy Start has led efforts to increase access to services, while reducing duplication, by implementing the Coordinated Intake & Referral process and creating local systems of care for expectant and new families.
- To protect against duplication with managed care, Florida Statute 409.975 (4), “Managed care plan accountability” legislation came into effect in 2014. It mandates coordination between the managed care plans and Healthy Start.

Diverse Funding and Partnerships

- A state-federal partnership has brought additional funding to Florida's Healthy Start since 2000. Effective August 3, 2017 the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved a five-year extension of Florida's Medicaid Waiver 1115.
- Healthy Start Coalitions areas partner with National Healthy Start to impact areas of high infant mortality and morbidity.
- In addition, Healthy Start Coalitions raise and leverage other valuable funds to fill gaps in resources and meet assessed local maternal and child health needs.