

# HEALTHY START IS A PROVEN INVESTMENT FOR PREVENTION



**THANK YOU!**

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC) appreciates the Legislature's continued investment in the Healthy Start Coalitions last session by awarding an additional \$9.5 million for DOH funded services for non-Medicaid families and program support. The additional funds were greatly needed after 17 years of no increases for Healthy Start's core services. On behalf of the families we serve, we also want to thank the legislature for increasing the KidCare eligibility threshold which is a huge help to families. Below is an update on the new FIMR and Fatherhood services provided by Healthy Start and a few requests to address some of the challenges impacting services for families.



## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Based on the funding request approved by the legislature, the Coalitions submitted their plans to DOH to use the additional \$9.5 million. Estimates include new positions to support services for families:

- 36 Home Visitors, 3 Program Support Staff
- Coordinate Intake & Referral Workers, 5 Support
- Outreach Community and Provider Liaisons
- Childbirth, Doula, and Nutrition Providers
- 3 Other Staff including Doula Coordinators, Project Managers, Data Consultants

## FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY REVIEWS (FIMR)

The FIMR program statewide expansion launched this last fiscal year with programs holding their first community review meetings by February 2023. DOH is compiling a report for the legislature that will have more details on implementation. Some of the early successes in launching the

FIMR expansion include:

- 15 new FIMR Coordinators hired and/or trained.
- 19 new Nurse Abstractors hired and/or trained.
- 9 new Case Review Teams were formed.

## FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

Healthy Start's new fatherhood program is called T.E.A.M. Dad. T.E.A.M. stands for Teaching, Empowering, Advocating for and Mentoring men on their fatherhood journey. The program launched around January 2023. Some of the early successes include:

- Hiring and training 38 T.E.A.M. Dad Coaches on the evidence-based program called 24/7 Dad.
- Developing a case management and reporting data system.

- 18 Quality Assurance, Data Analysis, and Program Support Staff
- 26 Admin Support: Associate Director, Contract Management, Accounting, Office Management, etc.

In addition to new positions, some Coalitions raised wages to help with recruitment and retention of a quality workforce.

**Healthy Start needs the remainder of the 2022–23 budget request. Please see the information submitted last year.**

- 20 new Community Action Groups were formed.
- More than 399 cases from existing and new teams were reviewed through June 30, 2023.
- DOH created a new portal to assist Coalitions in accessing fetal and infant death certificates.
- Developing standardized infant health and safety education services for fathers.
- Hiring a new TEAM Dad Program Manager at FAHSC to provide ongoing training and support to the Coalitions.
- Receiving 469 referrals, enrolling 243 fathers, providing 925 individual education and support visits.



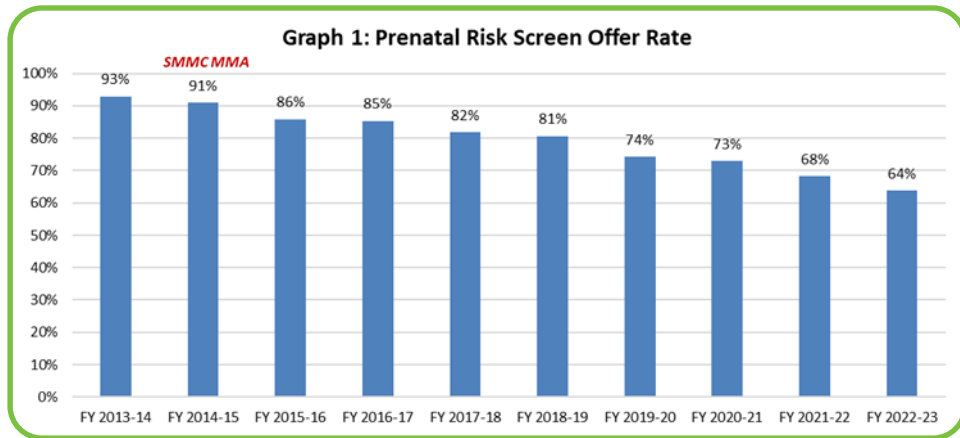
## UNIVERSAL RISK SCREENING

Last fiscal year, 142,884<sup>i</sup> pregnant women and 211,568<sup>ii</sup> infants were screened by prenatal providers and delivery hospitals. However, the prenatal screening offer rate dropped again this year from 68% to 64%. See Graph 1 below.

The DOH is piloting a new electronic version of the Universal Prenatal Risk Screen. If we were to achieve a 90% prenatal screen offer rate with an electronic screen, we project an additional 58,586<sup>iii</sup> pregnant mothers would be offered the risk screen and potentially referred for services. Last year, the infant electronic risk screening rate was 94%.

Healthy Start has requested help from our health plan partners to reinforce the importance for prenatal providers to complete the universal risk screen through incentive payments and/or quality assurance processes. Prior to Medicaid reform, AHCA paid prenatal providers to complete the screen.

Healthy Start is working with the health plans to see if they are able to provide incentive payments to prenatal providers for completion of the prenatal risk screen AND the health plan notice of pregnancy.



## RISK SCREENS RECEIVED BY HEALTHY START COORDINATED INTAKE AND REFERRAL

Last year, Healthy Start only received 84,852<sup>iv</sup> prenatal risk screens out of the total 142,884<sup>i</sup> screens processed. We continue to ask DOH to update the criteria to allow all screens with consent to be referred, which would allow an additional 58,032<sup>iv</sup> pregnant women who have consented to services to be referred annually.

Healthy Start is continuing to work with DOH to allow these screens to be referred to Healthy Start's Coordinated Intake and Referral to engage these women in a home visiting program and connect them with community resources.

### HEALTHY START IS REQUESTING:

- 1 \$9.7 million which is the remainder of the 2022–23 budget request.

Sources:

- Florida Charts, Healthy Start 2022–23 Prenatal Executive Summary, accessed 7-28-23.
- Florida Charts, Healthy Start 2022–23 Infant Executive Summary, accessed 7-28-23.
- From the Prenatal Executive Summary, there were 223,356 estimated number of pregnant women (total number of births) \* 90% = 201,470 women less 142,884 actual=58,586 more women would be offered the risk screen.
- WFS Prenatal Screen report for FY 2022–23
- 022–23 Prenatal Executive Summary accessed 7-28-23.

