



### Every Baby Deserves a Healthy Start . . .

### Because a Healthy Start can last a lifetime.

Research has shown that children born healthy are more likely to be ready for school, more likely to succeed in school, and less likely to end up in the juvenile justice system.



### Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida

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Fort Myers, FL 33901  
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(inside First Citizen's Bank)  
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(239) 425-6920

[HealthyStartBaby.org](http://HealthyStartBaby.org)

### Healthy Start Overview

The goals of the Healthy Start Program are to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies and improve health and developmental outcomes for babies and young children.

Services Include: Care coordination; outreach; education and support on breastfeeding, childbirth, parenting, smoking cessation, and nutrition; psychosocial counseling; depression screenings; health and developmental screenings; and community referrals.

Universal prenatal and infant screening is a cornerstone of the Healthy Start legislation and we are the only state in the U.S who has such a progressive system.

2015-16 (provisional) <sup>1</sup> :	State	Southwest FL
Number of clients served	122,198	8,012
Percent of pregnant women screened	76.6%	92.2%
Percent of infants screened	93.5%	97.8%

Healthy Start Coalitions are non-profit organizations dedicated to improving the health of pregnant women and babies in a community. Coalitions are responsible to:

- Form and maintain a system of care to ensure needed services are provided and not duplicated by building strong community partnerships.
- Ensure access to prenatal and infant medical care and services
- Monitor and educate the community on pregnancy and birth outcomes
- Advocate & build partnerships to address poor outcomes and service gaps
- Allocate service funds in the community and provide quality assurance
- Leverage additional funds



**Funding:** Healthy Start is funded primarily by state and federal funds through the Florida Department of Health and Medicaid. Coalitions may also leverage additional federal, state, and local grants.

**Program Cost:** In Southwest Florida, the average cost per client range is \$346 to \$950 depending on the level of client risk and the intensity of services needed by the family.

**Unreimbursed Services:** In Southwest Florida, Healthy Start provided an estimated \$1,541,847 in services that were unreimbursed due to a shortage in funding.

<sup>1</sup> Healthy Start Risk Screening Reports accessed on 10-10-16

<sup>1</sup> Well Family System client report accessed on 10-10-16



“What should have been nice news for me and an exciting process became sad. I had a pregnancy with depression. I cried for everything and I asked my partner for a separation. Nothing satisfied me. It was very hard because I wanted this baby, but I became very sad, felt no desire to laugh, or to celebrate, and I slept all the time. When I was not crying, I would not eat.

Then I met Suiny [my Healthy Start worker], she helped me a lot. We conversed a lot and I vented my feelings. She visited me in my house, we talked about my family and she helped me a lot to understand my pregnancy and encourage me to get out of the house twice a week.

Thanks to her, I'm happy with my baby, my daughter and my partner today. I have a beautiful family. I am so very grateful to the [Healthy Start] program and the work you do.

Thanks!”

Aymee

## Impact

### Statewide:

Since the implementation of the Healthy Start legislation in 1991, strides have been made in maternal and infant health in Florida. Infant mortality is a sentinel indicator of the general health in any community. It has decreased from 9.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 6.2 in 2015.<sup>1</sup>

**Infant deaths in Florida have decreased 35.4% from 1990-2015. We can estimate that 753 more babies survived in 2015 as compared to 1990 due to the positive change in the infant death rate<sup>2</sup>.**

Screening pregnant women and newborns for risk in order to target resources where they are most needed has been a hallmark of the Healthy Start System.

In 2014-15, of those screened, risks included<sup>3</sup>:

- 14.5% post partum depression
- 10% smoking
- 22% delayed access to prenatal medical care
- 11% chronic medical needs or obesity
- 33.8% first-time mothers
- 2,543 substance involved
- 12,498 used alcohol during pregnancy
- 4,676 were under the age of 18

**Local: Last year in Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties, we helped more than 14,000 pregnant women, babies, and young children in all of our programs. 95 cents of every dollar received went to services!**

## Statewide Healthy Start Request—(draft as of 12-20-16)

1. \$3.6 million for restoration of service funding
2. \$288 thousand for Fetal and Infant Mortality Review projects
3. Funding to support an anticipated budget appropriation shortfall for Healthy Start Medicaid services in the AHCA budget—amount tba.

**In a budget exercise, DOH has proposed a \$19.9 million cut to the Healthy Start program. This is approx. an 80% cut in Healthy Start's DOH (non-Medicaid) funding that provides both services and the infrastructure for the system of care in each community for pregnant women and babies.**

We are also researching the estimated Medicaid appropriation shortfall and will provide this as soon as it is available.

<sup>1</sup> FloridaCHARTS.com, Florida Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics. Note: Deaths occurring within 364 days of birth.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated 224,273 births in 2015 \* .0096 = 2,153 estimated deaths less 1,400 actual deaths = 753 babies saved.

<sup>3</sup> Florida CHARTS Healthy Start Prenatal Screen <http://www.floridacharts.com/HS/Prenatal/HSPrenatalIRPT.aspx>