



Our Mission: Give Every Baby Born in Florida the Best Possible Start in Life

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC) is comprised of 32 maternal and child health coalitions from across the state of Florida. Established in 1991 following passage of the landmark Healthy Start initiative, the coalitions work together to have a collective impact toward better outcomes for Florida's families. Our collective work accomplishes the following:

- Mobilizing multiple public and private sectors on our common goals
- Leveraging of millions of dollars to improve programs and services for families
- Aligning efforts with the Florida legislature to keep them informed of the needs of families and the importance of our mission
- Serving as a resource for national maternal and child health initiatives for dissemination to our thousands of partners
- Conducting assessments of best practices and trends to transfer knowledge among our members and our constituents.

Our Impact

Florida's infant mortality rate in 2014 was 6.0 deaths per 1,000 live births — a 37.5% decrease since 1990.

- Healthy Start provides screening, assessment, and ongoing education and support to more than 150,000 mothers and babies annually.
- More than 80,000 pregnant women on Medicaid are assisted by Healthy Start through its MomCare program before enrolling in a managed care plan.

Our Work

We work in our communities to implement Healthy Start services and activities such as home visiting, screening, risk assessment, ongoing education, breastfeeding support, parenting, healthcare navigation and prenatal care. Each coalition uses data and research to design a service delivery plan unique to their community.

We also test and support innovative interventions that impact birth outcomes and the long-term success of families. These include a pregnancy medical home model (Strong Start) and evidence-based home visiting funded through the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative. We work closely with public and private partners, including federal Healthy Start grantees and the March of Dimes, to deliver services to families at highest risk of poor outcomes.

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. is dedicated to strengthening maternal and child health by ensuring that all Florida families have access to a continuum of affordable and quality health and related services and advocating for public policy initiatives to facilitate those services.