

PRESS RELEASE

*Kansas City Healthy Start
A program of Mother & Child Health Coalition
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Kansas City Healthy Start Awarded \$7.5 million over 5 Years

July 20, 2009 – Kansas City, Missouri -- *Kansas City Healthy Start* has been notified that they will receive \$7.5 million over the next five years through the Healthy Start program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program is dedicated to ensuring that low-income and disadvantaged pregnant women receive the health care they need. Services include outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, perinatal depression screening, interconceptional care and other effective approaches to ensure a healthy birth and a healthy pregnancy. “I am thankful that Kansas City Healthy Start has been selected to receive this funding,” said Susan McLoughlin, executive director of Mother & Child Health Coalition, the parent organization of Kansas City Healthy Start. “Healthy Start is exactly the type of community-based prevention program that will save lives and also millions of dollars in health care costs down the road.”

Jean Craig, Ph.D., project director of Kansas City Healthy Start, stated: “This funding will allow Healthy Start to continue providing community-based services to improve the health of mothers and babies.” KC Healthy Start sites are located in Wyandotte County in Kansas and Jackson County in Missouri.

Healthy Start staff recruits and serves pregnant clients and primary caregivers who have children less than two years of age. Healthy Start staff also recruits dads and father figures for the Dedicated Dads program, which focuses on connecting men to people, programs and services they need to be a better dad.

Kansas City Healthy Start is one of 100 Healthy Start sites across the country specifically focused on reducing infant mortality and the incidence of low birthweight babies, and eliminating racial disparities in perinatal outcomes. An area is eligible for Healthy Start funds if it has an infant mortality rate 1.5 times the national average.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Jean Craig at (816) 283-6242 ext. 225.

The federal Healthy Start Initiative receives \$100 million in funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s Health Resources and Services Administration. Established in 1991, Healthy Start is comprised of approximately 100 community-based programs that respond to the medical, social, cultural and social service needs of women and their infants. Kansas City’s Healthy Start Project is a member of the National Healthy Start Association (NHSA). For more information, go to www.mchc.net. The NHSA supports the expansion of efforts that are rooted in the community and actively involve community members in their design and implementation. For information, visit www.healthystartassoc.org, or contact the NHSA at 202-296-2195.

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