



March 21, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Erin Addington
904.447.9853
eaddington@nefhsc.org

HEALTHY FAMILIES JACKSONVILLE OUTCOMES IMPROVE, FAMILIES RECEIVING CRITICAL SERVICES

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Families in Jacksonville are receiving critical home visiting services as the Healthy Families Jacksonville program continues to grow stronger.

Healthy Families Jacksonville, an evidence-based child abuse prevention program, is administered by the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. The Coalition is six months into a nine-month contract with the Jacksonville Children’s Commission, who put the program out to bid last summer because it was struggling to meet performance numbers and outcomes.

During the month of February, the program enrolled 49 new families – the highest enrollment of any of the 35 Healthy Families programs in the state. In addition, the program’s assessment rate is 100 percent and program acceptance rate is at 84 percent – up significantly from 52 percent in quarter one and 62 percent in quarter two.

That means that families who need and want the support and guidance that the program provides are now receiving it. Hear participant Maria Kassis talk about how the programs helps her here: https://youtu.be/j2IJgUJ3Z_k.

Healthy Families is a nationally-accredited family support and coaching program that helps parents provide the safe and stable environments children need for healthy growth and development. The program is voluntarily and participants receive the services in their home by specially-trained support workers.

The Healthy Start Coalition has a proven track record in meeting contractual outcomes and implementing successful home visiting and evidence-based programs. The Coalition also has experience and expertise in maintaining the fidelity of evidence-based programs, which have rigorous standards that have to be met for the programs to be effective.

Healthy Families saves the state an estimated \$100,000 in costs for each case of child abuse that is prevented. According to Healthy Families Florida, conservative estimates put the cost of treating child abuse at \$102,960 per child annually, while Healthy Families Florida is proven to prevent child abuse and neglect in high-risk families at a cost of only \$2,000 per child annually.

Healthy Families serves families living in Duval County in targeted zip codes: 32202, 32204, 32205, 32206, 32207, 32208, 32209, 32210, 32211, 32216, 32217, 32218, 32219, 32220, 32221, 32225, 32226, 32233, 32244, 32246, 32250, 32254, 32256, 32257 and 32277. To be eligible for the program, participants must be pregnant or have an infant less than three months of age; live in a targeted geographic service delivery area; and score 13 or above on the Healthy Start screen.

About the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

The Healthy Start Coalition leads a cooperative community effort to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children, childbearing women and their families in Northeast Florida. For more information, visit <http://nefhealthystart.org> or on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @nefhealthystart.

###