The Florida Healthy Start program includes universal screening of pregnant women and infants, identification of risk factors for poor birth and developmental outcomes, and has provided needed services since 1991. Healthy Start Coalitions strive to develop and implement quality systems of care unique to the communities they serve.

Evidence-Based

- Healthy Start has strengthened its services by implementing additional evidence-based risk evaluations and intervention components for pregnant women and newborns based on recommendations of the federally-funded Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative.

Responsible Use of Resources

- Healthy Start has led efforts to increase access to services, while reducing duplication, by implementing the Coordinated Intake & Referral process and streamlining local systems of care for expectant and new families.

- To protect against duplication with managed care, Florida Statute 409.975 (4), “Managed care plan accountability” legislation came into effect in 2014. It mandates coordination between the managed care plans and Healthy Start.

Efforts are also focused on health disparities in birth outcomes and related determinants of health such as poverty, trauma, and protective factors with a goal of health equity.

Florida has seen a 35% decrease in infant mortality rate since 1991 due in part to the resources and services provided by Healthy Start. It leads with low rates in south-eastern states.

Last year, Healthy Start provided support for nearly 80,000 at-risk pregnant women and more than 56,000 at-risk infants and helped connect them with community resources.

Healthy Start Coalitions raise and leverage other valuable funds to fill gaps in resources and meet their assessed local maternal and child health needs.

A state-federal partnership has brought additional funding to Florida’s Healthy Start since 2000. Effective August 3, 2017 the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved a five-year extension of Florida’s Medicaid Waiver 1115.

Healthy Start Coalitions areas partner with National Healthy Start and others to impact areas of high infant mortality and morbidity.

Other partnerships include hundreds of state, federal and national agencies and organizations, universities, medical providers, supporters and volunteers.

For more information please contact:

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