

## PROTECTING HEALTHY START

We all win when kids have a healthy start. And that begins with ensuring that pregnant women get the care they need to deliver strong, healthy babies and that those newborns can depend on quality, reliable care to keep them healthy.

Healthy Start, a program passed by a Democratic Congress and enacted by a Republican President in 1991, provides federal funds to reduce infant mortality and improve early childhood through grants to the communities that are most at risk.

Healthy Start projects have been successful at reducing infant mortality, reducing low birth weight, improving prenatal care, and reducing barriers to health care for pregnant women and newborns.

And because every Healthy Start site is supported by a consortium of community-based partners – residents, parents, medical providers, social service agencies, faith representatives and business leaders – entire communities are engaged to help children survive and succeed.

### AN UNHEALTHY START

But real challenges remain. The U.S. infant mortality rate increased in 2002 for the first time since 1958, ranking it second to last among industrialized nations.

The death rates within the U.S. show troubling racial and ethnic disparities with Black children twice as likely to die by their first birthday than other children. In 2002, Caucasian children on average had 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared with 13.9 deaths per 1,000 live births for Black children, and 9.1 deaths per 1,000 live births for Native American children.

And the rates continue to creep upwards, especially in the Southern U.S. In 2004, the infant mortality rate in Mississippi jumped from 9.7 in 2004 to 11.4 deaths per live birth the following year. This unfortunate trend is also being seen in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

### A PROGRAM THAT WORKS

What started as a program targeting 15 communities with high infant mortality rates now provides critical support for 92 programs in 35 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.\*

These programs are successful because they are built upon the research which is conclusive that early entrance into prenatal care is the single most critical factor for improving birth outcomes.

### CLOSING THE FUNDING GAP

A healthy start is critical if we are to give children the foundation they need to become healthy and productive adults. Sadly, funding for Healthy Start is insufficient to meet the needs.

First Focus is grateful that legislation to reauthorize the Healthy Start program was signed into law in fall 2008 (P.L. 110-339). Congress must ensure that Healthy Start has the resources necessary to maintain current services and reach more pregnant woman and newborns nationwide. First Focus is pleased that the President proposed \$110 million in funding for FY 2011, up from \$105 million the previous year, to support current grantees, allow for new grants, and to ensure that no existing programs are forced to close due to lack of funds.

\* See map on the reverse side of this page.

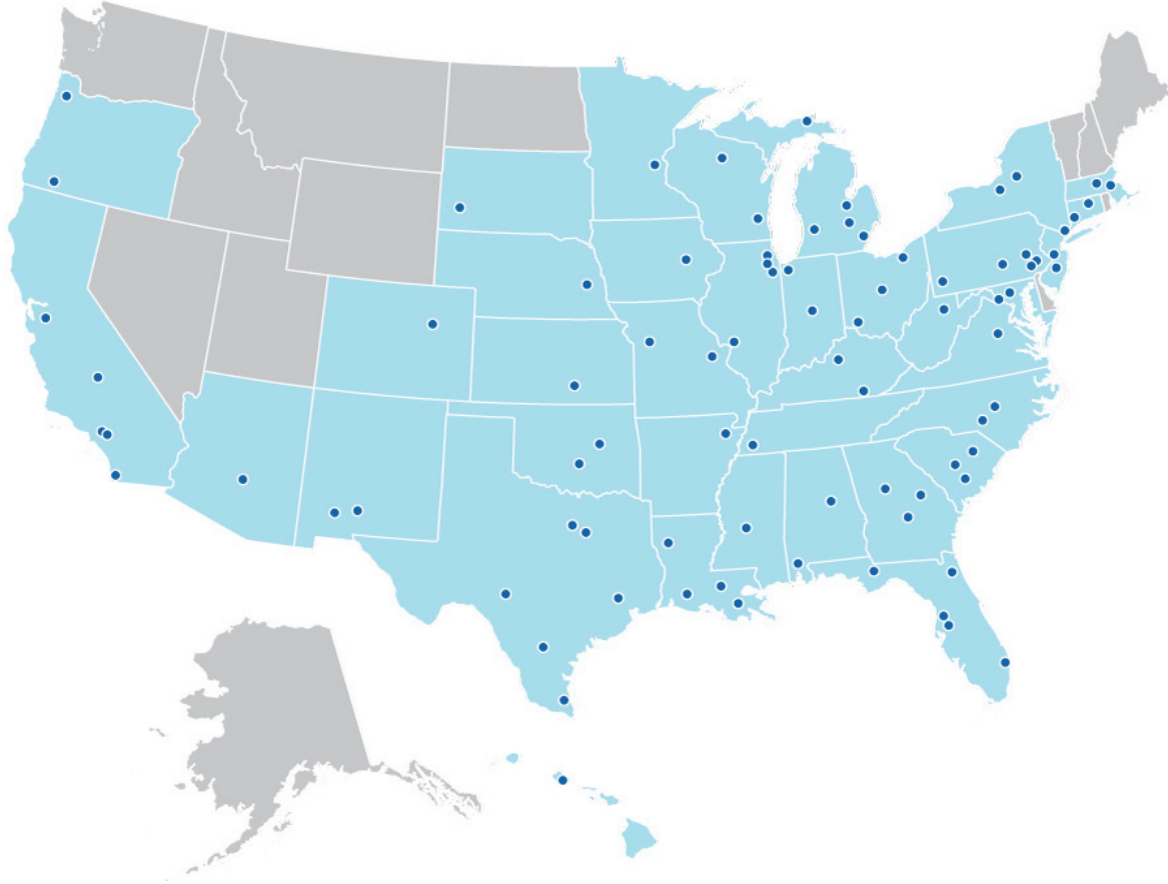


#### For more information

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# Healthy Start Grantees



### ALABAMA

Birmingham  
Mobile

### ARIZONA

Nogales  
Tempe

### ARKANSAS

Blytheville

### CALIFORNIA

Compton  
Fresno  
Los Angeles  
National City  
San Leandro

### COLORADO

Aurora

### CONNECTICUT

Hartford  
New Haven

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington (2)

### FLORIDA

Jacksonville  
St. Petersburg  
Tampa  
Boynton Beach  
Quincy

### HAWAII

Honolulu

### GEORGIA

Atlanta  
Augusta (2)  
Dublin

### ILLINOIS

Chicago (3)  
Olympia Fields  
Dolton  
Sauget

### INDIANA

Hammond  
Indianapolis

### IOWA

Des Moines

### KANSAS

Wichita

### KENTUCKY

Louisville  
Williamsburg

### LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge  
Lafayette  
Bossier City  
New Orleans

### MARYLAND

Baltimore

### MASSACHUSETTS

Boston  
Worcester

### MICHIGAN

Detroit  
Flint  
Grand Rapids  
Nazareth  
Saginaw  
Sault Ste. Marie

### MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

### MISSISSIPPI

Marks

### MISSOURI

Kansas City  
Portageville  
St. Louis

### NEBRASKA

Omaha

### NEW JERSEY

Camden  
Trenton (2)

### NEW MEXICO

Deming  
Las Cruces

### NEW YORK

New York (3)  
Rochester  
Syracuse

### NORTH CAROLINA

Pembroke  
Raleigh

### OHIO

Cleveland  
Columbus  
Cincinnati

### OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City  
Tulsa

### OREGON

Medford  
Portland

### PENNSYLVANIA

Chester  
Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh  
West Chester  
Harrisburg

### PUERTO RICO

San Juan

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia  
Denmark  
Florence

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Rapid City

### TENNESSEE

Memphis

### TEXAS

Dallas  
Fort Worth  
Harlingen  
Houston  
San Antonio (2)

### VIRGINIA

Richmond (3)

### WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

### WISCONSIN

Lac Du Flambeau  
Milwaukee



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MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY