



Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade

The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) is a community-based non-profit organization designated by the State of Florida Department of Health (FS 383.216) to serve as Miami-Dade County's prenatal and infant care coalition. HSCMD serves as part of a statewide network of community-based organizations working to improve the lives of pregnant women and their families. HSCMD's primary goals are to reduce infant mortality; reduce the number of low birth weight and pre-term births; and improve maternal child health and developmental outcomes in Miami-Dade County. To accomplish these goals, HSCMD partners with local community-based organizations and healthcare professionals to plan, coordinate and provide high quality health and education services to women of childbearing age, children to age three, and their families.

The Coalition is responsible for the establishment and oversight of multiple programs and initiatives in Miami-Dade County, including the Healthy Start Program, the MomCare Program, and the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Project.

Healthy Start Program

Implemented April 1, 1992, Healthy Start legislation provides for universal risk screening of all Florida's pregnant women and infants to identify those at risk for poor birth, health and developmental outcomes. All pregnant women, regardless of their marital, economic or immigration status, are eligible to participate in Healthy Start if they are at high risk for a poor pregnancy outcome. Post-partum women and infants up to age three are also eligible for services based upon risk. The goal of Healthy Start is to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies and improve health and developmental outcomes.

The Healthy Start program offers targeted support services that address identified risks. The range of Healthy Start services available to pregnant women, infants and children up to age three includes:

- Outreach
- Home visiting
- Childbirth education
- Nutrition counseling
- Breastfeeding education and support
- Care coordination to assure access to needed services
- Parenting education and support
- Psychosocial counseling
- Tobacco education and cessation counseling



All services offered to clients within Healthy Start are on a voluntary basis and focus on direct contact with clients in their home and/or alternative locations (i.e. schools, clinics, etc.).

The Healthy Start program trains its care coordinators, program managers and other appropriate staff to provide services utilizing research and/or evidence based models. These models are developed based on requirements established by the State of Florida's Department of Health, Healthy Start Standards and Guidelines. The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) utilizes the following models and curricula:

- ✓ Partners for a Healthy Baby for Home Visitors: Florida State University
- ✓ Florida Outreach Childbirth Education Program (FOCEP) Training
- ✓ Lactation Counselor Certificate Training (CLC) Program, Center for Breastfeeding
- ✓ Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Treatment (SCRIPT)
- ✓ InterConceptional (ICC) Education Certification
- ✓ Sharing & Caring: Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support
- ✓ Nutrition assessment and counseling completed by a Registered Dietician

Currently, the Coalition has a total of 9 contracts, as well as a partnership with the federally funded Healthy Start initiative – The Jasmine Project, which is overseen by the University of Miami's Starting Early Starting Smart Program (UMSESS). This federal project focuses on four specific zip codes: 33054, 33055, 33167 and 33169 and provides intensive services to at risk women for up to two years.

For the fiscal year July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, the Healthy Start program provided the following services to pregnant women and infants:

- ✓ 24,056 pregnant women were screened
- ✓ 21,189 pregnant women consented to the program (88% of screened women)
- ✓ 4,197 pregnant women scored into the program (6 or more points needed) (17% of screened women)
- ✓ 9,592 pregnant women were eligible based on score/other factors (40% of screened women)
- ✓ 13,452 pregnant women participated in Healthy Start (unduplicated) (55% of screened women)
- ✓ 32,501 infants were screened (99% of all infants born in Miami-Dade County)
- ✓ 5,385 infants scored into the program (4 or more points needed) (17% of screened infants)
- ✓ 7,461 infants were eligible based on score/other factors (23% of screened infants)
- ✓ 12,073 infants participated in Healthy Start (unduplicated) (37% of screened infants)

MomCare Program

MomCare is a Medicaid-funded program authorized by a special waiver from the federal government called the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (SOBRA). MomCare was developed as a partnership between the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions (FAHSC), Florida Department of Health (DOH), Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) and Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). As per legislative language, a contract with AHCA is administered by an Administrative Services Organization (ASO: Healthy Start MomCare Network) established by FAHSC. Coverage in this program is made available to pregnant women who meet up to 185% of the federal poverty level. Medicaid covers approximately 50% of the births in Miami-Dade County. The program is managed locally by the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade. A total of 32,432 births occurred in 2015.

The goal of Florida's MomCare program is to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality rates through guidance, referrals, education and care coordination services. Once deemed eligible for the program, a client will receive:

- ✓ Assistance in linking with a Choice Counselor for selecting an MMA plan
- ✓ Guidance selecting a prenatal care provider
- ✓ Information about state programs for which they may be eligible
- ✓ Limited health education services
- ✓ Referrals to needed services which include Parenting Education & Support, Breastfeeding Education and Support, Childbirth Education, InterConceptional Care and other needed services



For the fiscal year July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, a total of 19,526 women were referred to the MomCare Program and they were successfully provided the following:

- ✓ Received an Attempt to Contact within 5 Days – 100% of women referred to MomCare
- ✓ Successfully Contacted – 80.8% of women referred to MomCare
- ✓ Facilitation of WIC – 98.7% of women referred to MomCare
- ✓ Provided information on Healthy Start – 98.6% of women referred and successfully contacted

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Project of Miami-Dade County

The FIMR Project of Miami-Dade County is a countywide effort to better understand the issues associated with fetal and infant mortality and to develop strategies that improve local perinatal systems of care. Through reviews of local fetal and infant deaths, FIMR identifies strengths and areas for improvement in service systems and community resources for women, infants and families. FIMR also provides direction towards changes in service systems and the development of policies to safeguard them. FIMR Membership is comprised of multi-disciplinary teams of community volunteers.