



## **Babies Born Healthy FAQ**

### **6.15.2010**

#### **Why is the Babies Born Healthy program ending?**

At a time when budgets are being reduced, the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is working to align our programs to ensure that we are making the right investments at the right time to positively impact the health status of Georgia.

#### **When is the Babies Born Health program ending?**

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) ceased enrolling new clients in Babies Born Healthy effective June 7, 2010.

#### **How many women does Babies Born Healthy serve?**

Babies Born Healthy served 3,509 clients in FY2009. The total budget for Babies Born Healthy in FY09 was \$2.9M, but that budget did not meet the financial needs of the program. Through the program, DCH provided reimbursements up to \$1,200 per client for routine prenatal care.

#### **Who was eligible for the Babies Born Healthy program?**

Pregnant women who are residents of Georgia (U.S. citizenship not required) at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; who are not eligible for Medicaid; and either uninsured or underinsured.

#### **What if a pregnant woman is currently receiving services through the Babies Born Healthy program?**

Providers will continue to be reimbursed for prenatal services currently being offered to existing Babies Born Healthy clients.

#### **What services are available to pregnant women that are not currently enrolled in Babies Born Healthy?**

Women in need of prenatal care who do not qualify for Medicaid may be able to receive services at free or reduced rate clinics in their communities.

#### **How will DCH utilize the remaining Babies Born Healthy funds?**

DCH will utilize the Babies Born Healthy funds to serve a larger population of Georgia's children through the Children 1<sup>st</sup> program.

#### **What is the Children 1<sup>st</sup> program?**

Children 1<sup>st</sup> is the single point of entry to a statewide collaborative system of public health and other prevention based programs and services. This system helps parents provide their young children with a healthy start in life. It allows at-risk children to be identified early and gives them a chance to grow up healthy and ready for school.

For information about prenatal care resources or the Children 1<sup>st</sup> program visit:  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/childrenfirst/> or call your local health department.

#### **Why is the Children 1<sup>st</sup> program important?**

The earliest years in life are critical in a child's development. Early nurturing, good health, and stimulating experiences yield dramatic, positive results on how a child develops and functions in school. Children 1<sup>st</sup> provides family support and addresses conditions in a child's environment that may negatively impact that child's overall well being. Without the screening, professional assessments, and linkages to services

provided through Children 1<sup>st</sup>, fewer five-year-old children would enter school with their health care needs met.

**Who is eligible for the Children 1<sup>st</sup> program?**

Children birth to age five, regardless of income, who are identified to be at risk for poor health and developmental outcomes, are assessed and linked to services.

**Children 1<sup>st</sup> FY2009 Highlights:**

- 61,361 newborns/children identified as at risk for needing medical and/or developmental services;
- 13,324 assessments were completed on at-risk children; 6,897 assessments were conducted in the home;
- 13,141 children were linked to a primary health care provider (private and public); and
- 35,003 children were monitored for health and developmental status (duplicated count).

Additionally, Children 1<sup>st</sup> linked approximately 12,000 children to Medicaid who otherwise may not have been enrolled.