Interconception Care Learning Collaborative

The Interconception Care Learning Collaborative works to improve the health and well-being of women served by HRSA's 104 Healthy Start grantee projects across the nation. Healthy Start develops community-based systems to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of women, infants, children and families in communities with high infant mortality rates.

Through the collaborative, grantee teams implement individual change projects during three 9-month action cycles, focusing on care given during the time between the end of one pregnancy and the beginning of another.

The teams choose one of six key areas in which they intend to improve care:
- case management,
- risk screening,
- family planning/reproductive health,
- primary care linkages,
- maternal depression, and
- healthy weight.

Teams utilize best practices and evidence-based interventions to address their chosen area. At the end of an action cycle, teams can use the next action cycle to build on their previous work or can choose to focus on another area.

The first cycle ran from November 2009 to August 2010; the second from August 2010 to May 2011; and the third is planned for May 2011 to February 2012.

Funding

Over a 3 year period, HRSA has allocated approximately $1.7 million to this project.

Participants

Each team is made up of five individuals, including the Healthy Start project director or manager, a case manager, and community stakeholders, including a consumer of Healthy Start services. At the beginning of each cycle, all the teams convene in Washington, DC for a meeting, then return home and work for 9 months to implement their change projects. Teams, especially those working on the same area of focus, develop collaborative relationships.

Key Successes

After one action cycle,
- Readiness assessment showed high proportions of individual willingness and organizational readiness among participants.
- Improvements demonstrated by majority of teams.
- Peer-to-peer learning accelerated over 9 months.