

# **lews**letter

A publication of the Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard County | VOL 13 | 2023

The Healthy Start Coalition of Brevard County is a local, non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization that works to make sure that all moms and babies have the services they need to begin healthy lives together.

The Healthy Start program provides pregnant moms, newborns and families with children up to age 3 with education, support and resources they need to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. The goal of Healthy Start is to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies and improve health and developmental outcomes of all Florida's babies.

Healthy Start services are available to all pregnant women and mothers of newborns and is not based on income or insurance, but is based solely on risk factors that may be present during pregnancy or at the birth of the baby.



## **Community Connect**

Community Connect is the Healthy Start program that processes the referrals from the prenatal risk screens, infant risk screens, and community referrals. Community Connect contacts, assesses, provides information, and makes referrals to home visiting programs and other community services.



### Services and Resources may include:

- Childbirth education
- Newborn care instruction
- Breastfeeding education and support
- Child development education
- Parenting education and support
- Help to quit smoking
- Nutritional education
- School readiness
- Family planning education
- Car seat safety
- Infant safety
- Counseling services
- Home visiting programs: Healthy Families, Healthy Start, & Healthy Start TEAM Dad

**Connect Today!** Call 321-634-6101

# Preeclampsia and Hypertensive Disorders

Reference and information taken from: Preeclampsia Foundation For more information on Preeclampsia Foundation: www.preeclampsia.org

The Preeclampsia Foundation's purpose is to improve the outcomes of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy by educating, supporting and engaging the community, improving healthcare practices, and finding a cure.



Thousands of women and babies get very sick each year from a dangerous condition called preeclampsia, a life-threatening hypertensive disorder that occurs only during pregnancy and the postpartum period. Preeclampsia and related disorders such as gestational hypertension, HELLP syndrome, and eclampsia are most often characterized by a rapid rise in blood pressure that can lead

> to seizure, stroke, multiple organ failure, and even death of the mother and/or baby.

All pregnancies are at risk, our best defense against the worst outcomes is to ensure patients understand and appropriately respond to the warning signs of preeclampsia. The problem is, few people are aware

and adequately informed. With your help, we can drive awareness, advance our scientific understanding and medical practices, and together help create a world where preeclampsia and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy no longer threaten the lives of mothers and babies.

Healthy Start includes Preeclampsia and Postpartum Preeclampsia education in all of the prenatal and postnatal educational packets from Healthy Start/Community Connect. These packets are handed out during their first prenatal appointment and when they deliver at the hospital. Healthy Start is also delivering Preeclampsia Posters to all OB offices this month. If you would like more of these posters for your office, please contact our office at (321) 634-6101.

# If You're Invested In The Well-Being Of Moms & The Maternal Health Crisis, This One's For You!



### **Building a New Way Forward:**

The White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis Roundtable Webinar on September 28, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. EST







By: Maternal Health Learning & Innovation Center www.maternalhealthlearning.org

Learn how you can be part of achieving this important goal and join the Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center, The Reilly Group, and Postpartum Support International's Mind the Gap for a roundtable webinar on September 28, 2023 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET - "Building a New Way Forward: The White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis."

This special event will highlight the White House's unprecedented strategy for tackling the maternal mortality and morbidity crisis and the five goals that will help make the U.S. a place where moms and babies can thrive. Expert speakers, health leaders, and those with lived experience will share important insights on some of the Blueprint goals and discuss practical strategies we can all take to improve maternal health.

If you're invested in the well-being of moms and birthing people and are looking for ways to take action, this one's for you!

## To RSVP For This Roundtable Webinar:

https://maternalhealthlearning.org/event/2023-white-house-blueprint-roundtable/

The White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis contains 50 actions that over a dozen agencies will undertake to help improve maternal care. Many of the actions announced, including bolstering the behavioral health workforce, strengthening parity in mental health and substance use disorder coverage, and embedding mental health and substance use services into community-based settings, will also help improve maternal behavioral health outcomes.

The Blueprint outlines five priorities to improve maternal health and outcomes in the United States:

- Increasing access to and coverage of comprehensive high-quality maternal health services, including behavioral health services.
- Ensuring women giving birth are heard and are decision makers in accountable systems of care.
- Advancing data collection, standardization, harmonization, transparency, and research
- Expanding and diversifying the perinatal workforce.
- Strengthening economic and social supports for people before, during, and after pregnancy.





To access The White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis created on June 24, 2022: www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Maternal-Health-Blueprint.pdf