

# Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns

## **MO HealthNet Oversight Committee** **April 10, 2012**

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# Strong Start Grant

- Grant Opportunity from CMS and Innovation Center
- Goal is to improve maternal and infant health outcomes

# Background

- 12% of infants born in U.S. are born prematurely
- This rate has risen steadily in the past 2 decades
- Rates vary by geography, SES, race/ethnic status
- In addition to increased mortality, pre-term infants are also at increased risk for:
  - NICU stays
  - Health and developmental problems
  - Early intervention and special education services
  - Conditions that impact adult productivity
- Costs to society are estimated at \$26 billion annually

# Medicaid's Role

- Medicaid covers 40% of all U.S. births

# The Strong Start Grant

- One-year grants, renewable for up to 4 years
- Focusing on 3 distinct approaches:
  - Enhanced Prenatal Care through Centering/Group Care
  - Enhanced Prenatal Care at Birth Centers
  - Enhanced Prenatal Care at Maternity Care Homes
- Sites pick one approach
- Site must enroll 500 women per year for the 3 years of the grant
- DSS/MHD and DHSS will partner with any entity in the state that wishes to apply

# Current Status

- Letters of Intent due to CMS by May 11
- Full Application due to CMS by June 13
- Award Announcements expected by Sept 10
- MHD will hold webinars and/or conference calls to address data collection and other related issues for anyone applying from Missouri