



Healthy Moms - Healthy Babies
Geary County Perinatal Coalition

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has been awarded a \$3.5 million five year Healthy Start grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Healthy Start grants were awarded to 87 organizations in 33 different states to launch projects aimed at reducing infant mortality rates and improving mothers' and infants' health.

"This Healthy Start initiative is an effective way to empower pregnant women by giving them the resources they need to improve their own health and the health of their babies," said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer. "We are looking forward to working with a number of partners in Kansas so that Geary County children will benefit from these services."

Key partners in delivering these programs include the Geary Community Healthcare Foundation, Geary Community Hospital, Geary County Health Department, Flint Hills OBGYN, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc., Kansas Children's Service League, Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network, Unified School District 475, and March of Dimes.

The Geary County project, known as *Delivering Change*, is a comprehensive approach to eliminating disparities in perinatal health in rural Geary County that focuses on individual and family health using evidence-based practices, standardized approaches, and quality improvement. *Delivering Change* will expand on the existing work of the Geary County Perinatal Coalition to integrate a comprehensive array of services using a Collective Community Impact approach that will support achievement of these key project goals:

- Improve women's health, with a focus on access to care
- Promote quality services
- Strengthen family resilience
- Increase program accountability

"We are incredibly excited to work with KDHE and our grant partners to expand and build upon our existing *Delivering Change: Healthy Moms- Healthy Babies* initiatives, including the implementation of new projects and programs, in our community. This is an amazing opportunity for the Geary County Perinatal Coalition." Jill Nelson, Project Coordinator.

The Geary Community Healthcare Foundation is excited to welcome our newest partner, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. We look forward to expanding our current *Delivering Change* projects in Geary County." Jolana Montgomery- Matney, Executive Director, Geary Community Healthcare Foundation

A comprehensive process and outcome evaluation conducted by the Center for Public Partnerships and Research will ensure accountability through quality improvement and performance monitoring throughout this five year project. Grant writing support for this application was provided by the Kansas Health Foundation. For more information on *Delivering Change*, visit <http://deliveringchange.org/>.