



The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey Children's Immunization Project

TRENTON, NJ – The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ) launched The Children's Immunization Project on January 1, 2013, in partnership with The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. CHS of NJ will provide education and case management services to 120 families at risk of failing to meet recommended child immunization schedules. The goal of the project is to provide education about immunizations, and encourage families to meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards for immunizing children against vaccine-preventable diseases by two years of age.

The Project will serve mostly young, often immigrant and generally low income, at-risk families with infants and toddlers residing in the city of Trenton and surrounding communities of Mercer County, New Jersey. Efforts will be focused according to families' needs;

- Families who express concerns about immunizing their children, state they are waiting until their children are older, or did not regularly attend prenatal or well-baby visits will receive one-on-one support and education.
- Families who are open to immunization, but do not have regular access to health care will receive information about immunizations, assistance identifying a primary care physician, and assistance in securing health insurance for their children.
- Families who plan to immunize their children according to the CDC recommended immunization schedule will receive reminder postcards, refrigerator magnets, and phone calls.

CHS of NJ will work with Trenton mothers to inform them of their children's immunization status, encourage compliance with CDC standards, and provide referrals for immunizations and well-care. CHS of NJ will access the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) to monitor participants' compliance and develop benchmarks for meeting the full immunization schedule. Participants will be educated on the purpose, effectiveness, safety, schedule, providers, and costs of immunization by CHS staff and mothers of immunized children. CHS of NJ will connect families with health care services and collaborate with the Trenton Department of Health and Henry J. Austin Health Center (Trenton, NJ) to conduct immunization clinics. Home visits will be conducted and/or transportation will be provided for families with disabilities or other severe obstacles preventing them from accessing immunization clinics.

Participation is voluntary, and it is anticipated that over 95% of those participating in the project will complete the full CDC schedule. CHS of NJ is thrilled to be a part of the Children's Immunization Project, because completion of the CDC's recommended immunization schedule will protect children from contracting illnesses that could interrupt critical healthy development in their first years of life.