



Horizon Foundation for New Jersey Supports Children's Immunization Initiative

The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey has awarded The Children's Home Society of New Jersey a two-year grant to work with families in completing the immunizations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

KIDS COUNT reports that only 67 percent of two-year-old children in New Jersey were fully immunized in 2010. The Trenton Health Initiative estimates that five percent of parents in Trenton may be reluctant about or resistant to immunization. CHS of NJ's Children's Immunization Initiative is reaching out to these harder to engage families.

"The Horizon Foundation is helping us build on the trusting relationships we develop with participants in our community-based programs," said Donna C. Pressma, President and CEO of the Children's Home Society of New Jersey. "These families include those previously or currently participating in our prenatal, nutrition, early childhood intervention, kinship services and Family Success Center programs."

The Children's Immunization Initiative supports parents in completing the immunization schedule and in developing the important habits of providing well-child care for the ongoing health needs of their growing children.

Over the past year, the Children's Immunization Initiative worked with 143 families --distributing information, providing one-on-one support and group education, and assisting families in accessing health services. Parents are learning about the purpose, effectiveness, safety, schedule, providers, and costs of immunization.

The percentage of children who were up to date on completing their immunization schedule increased in one year from 87 percent to 92 percent at the end of 2013. This program's goal is to reach 100 percent.

The mission of the Horizon Foundation is to promote health, well-being, and quality life in New Jersey's communities. The Foundation supports quality health-related prevention and education programs.