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**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
TO THE STATES**

**State Project/Program: HEALTHY BEGINNINGS (MINORITY INFANT MORTALITY
REDUCTION PROGRAM)**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Federal Authorization: 42 United States Code Section 701-709

State Authorization: Senate Bill 1505

**N. C. Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

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N. C. DHHS Confirmation Reports:

SFY 2019 audit confirmation reports for payments made to Counties, Local Management Entities (LMEs), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Boards of Education, Councils of Government, District Health Departments and DHSR Grant Subrecipients will be available by mid-October at the following web address: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/administrative-offices/office-controller/audit-confirmation-reports> At this site, click on the link entitled “Audit Confirmation Reports (State Fiscal Year 2018-2019)”. Additionally, audit confirmation reports for Nongovernmental entities receiving financial assistance from DHHS are found at the same website except select “Non-Governmental Audit Confirmation Reports (State Fiscal Years 2017-2019)”.

Brief Description of Program

The purpose of the Healthy Beginnings Program is to fund projects in various communities to impact the reduction of minority infant mortality and preterm and low birthweight births to improve minority birth outcomes. Funds are given to local health departments and private non-profit organizations to support local community-based minority infant mortality reduction efforts.

In 1994, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$750,000 annually to fund fifteen projects that would demonstrate means to lower infant mortality and low birth weight rates among minority populations. Funding was decreased in 2001 to \$700,000 to fund 14 projects. In 2009, funds from the Targeted Infant Mortality Reduction Program (TIMR) were merged with Healthy Beginnings. The goal of the Healthy Beginnings Program is to address the two-fold plus disparity between white and minority infant mortality in the State of North Carolina by targeting areas with significant minority infant mortality. A community-based approach addressing infant mortality was mandated with a specific focus on the formulation and implementation of innovative strategies to improve birth outcomes and involvement from a variety of community organizations.

Community and faith-based organizations and local health departments with experience working in minority communities are eligible to apply for Healthy Beginnings funding.

Funded recipients are expected to implement programs that will impact the reduction of minority infant mortality and low birthweight births in their communities and thereby improve minority birth outcomes.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS (MINORITY INFANT MORTALITY REDUCTION PROGRAM)

Funding is available for 3 years, contingent upon performance. Between 10 and 12 sites are funded at an award level of \$65,000 to \$80,000 annually.

Funds for this program are from State funds. -

Organizations Funded: Private Local Government Both

Source of Funds: State X Federal