



Mothers & Babies PERINATAL NETWORK

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HHS Awards Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network of SCNY \$500,000+

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced that Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network of SCNY will receive a grant of \$505,370 over two years to support the agency’s efforts to identify and enroll children eligible for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Grants were awarded to 39 state agencies, community health centers, school-based organizations and non-profit groups in 23 states. The two-year grants are authorized under the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009.

Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network of SCNY will work with school districts in an eight-county region of south central New York to identify eligible children and provide assistance with enrollment and renewal in Medicaid and CHIP. A variety of school-focused outreach strategies will be used in an educational program for middle and high school students on the value of health coverage and health care.

“We’re excited about being able to move forward with this initiative,” said Executive Director Sharon Chesna. “We know that by keeping our youngest Americans healthy, we save our society from experiencing greater health care expenses down the road. There’s a dual benefit as well, as we also know that healthy children do better in school.”

The grants build on the HHS initiative called [Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge](#). Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network of SCNY “*Kids Insurance Connection (KIC)*” will seek to secure agreements with a majority of the 65 school districts in its eight county area. It will create a system to identify and track students’ health insurance status and refer those identified as uninsured. It will also provide a “life skills health insurance” program to educate children about the benefits health insurance offers.

Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network (M&BPN) is one of 16 New York State Perinatal Networks originally developed with funding from the New York State Department of Health. These Networks strive to make positive change in health outcomes for women, infants and families.

M&BPN serves an eight county region in South Central New York, consisting of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins counties.