

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

MEMORANDUM
NOTE DE SERVICE

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| Information Previously Distributed To Be Listed on Community Services Committee Agenda | 15 May 97 |
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DATE 22 April 1997

TO/DEST. Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **HEALTHY BABIES, HEALTHY CHILDREN PROGRAM
ANNOUNCEMENT**

PURPOSE

This report provides information about the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program announced by Premier Mike Harris on April 17, 1997.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The government announced a \$10M Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program to be led jointly by the Ministries of Health and Community and Social Services. Boards of health have been designated as the lead agencies for the implementation of the Program, which is aimed at improving health and life prospects for children and furthering the integration of health and social services for children.

Boards of health (public health units/departments) will deliver this provincially-funded program in partnership with local health and social services providers. The goal of this program is to identify expectant parents and children at risk as early as possible and connect them to appropriate services. Expectant parents and families identified as high-risk will be visited by public health nurses and trained home visitors.

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program is intended to build on current activities targeted to expectant parents, newborns and young children. The funding is to enhance current services to this target group and not to replace existing programs. This program is a 100% provincially-funded initiative and will continue as such after January 1998. The Program will be mandated under the revised Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines and will require the Health Department to:

- develop in collaboration with health and social service providers and other stakeholders, an integrated, effective early identification, assessment and referral system for children 0-6 years of age;
- develop protocols with health and social service providers to ensure easy access to a coordinated system of supports and services for those referred as at risk;
- provide central access to information on healthy child development, parenting, community and professional services;
- report annually to the Chief Medical Officer of Health about the activities of the program

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Ottawa-Carleton Health Department will receive annual funding from the province, to implement the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program. Our annual allocation is based on an equitable funding formula that takes into account the 0-4 child population, geographic dispersion, the rates of low birth weight, low income, and home language other than English or French. Our initial annual allocation is \$628,158.

CONCLUSION

The Ottawa-Carleton Health Department welcomes the addition of this new program and accompanying funding. The program will build on current activities targeted to expectant parents, newborns and young children and will significantly enhance current services to this target group. The Health Department looks forward to working collaboratively with its health and social services partners to develop a program that builds on programs and services already existing in our community.

Approved by
Robert Cushman, MD, MBA, FRCPC