



A child is born into poverty every 2 hours in Orange County...
Orange County United Way

Mission

The mission of MOMS Orange County is to help women and their families have healthy babies by offering health care coordination, education, and access to community services.

Services Provided

MOMS Orange County (MOMS) is a uniquely qualified organization that provides access to prenatal care, health screenings, developmental screenings, health education and referral services to low-income pregnant and parenting women in Orange County through monthly home visits and group classes. Under nurse supervision, MOMS mothers and their babies receive one-on-one education and support during pregnancy and through the baby's first year of life. During pregnancy, the program focuses on measures to increase the mother's chance of delivering a normal birth weight, full-term, healthy baby. After birth, the focus is on promoting the infant's healthy development and the mother's health and well-being.

Families Served

Despite the fact that Orange County is one of the top ten wealthiest counties in the United States, 40% of the 45,000 babies born each year are born into poverty - MOMS serves more than 5,000 of these families each year. MOMS clients are the "working poor" who are uninsured or underinsured and have difficulty paying for private health care and, therefore are unlikely to access health care. Since 1992, MOMS has served more than 30,000 mothers and their babies. Countless fathers and other family members have benefited as well.

Needs Addressed

Low-income, medically underserved women are at higher risk for delivering infants with poor birth outcomes and subsequent health problems-including pre-term birth, low birth weight, low rates of breastfeeding, medical complications, excessive emergency room visits, poor infant bonding, and delayed infant development.

Benefit to the Community

The health of the community has changed because MOMS mothers access prenatal care; babies are born healthy and reach their developmental milestones on time; and fathers are prepared for a positive role in the family. Mothers are empowered to make wise lifestyle choices that affect the health and well being of the entire family as evidenced by MOMS outcomes:

- MOMS babies are born healthier with only 5.4% born at a low birth weight
- MOMS mothers are less likely to deliver babies prematurely
- MOMS babies are less likely to be admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- 97% of MOMS babies are on track developmentally.

Investing in Mothers & Babies

MOMS can provide one mother and her baby with a full range of services for less than \$1,500 a year - a wise investment considering the life-long costs and consequences of poor birth outcomes and delayed infant development. Based on the most conservative estimates, every dollar invested in MOMS services saves the community \$3.33 – this does not include the untold *millions* saved over a lifetime for *just one infant with a poor birth outcome and/or delayed development*.