

# **March of Dimes & Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated**

## **Stork's Nest Program**

### **Suggested Community Partners**

*The Stork's Nest program can be adapted to areas large or small, urban, suburban or rural...wherever there is a Zeta Phi Beta chapter and a need to promote prenatal care. While no two Stork's Nests will be identical, the program goals and components are the same. In almost every instance, collaboration with hospital or community-based prenatal care providers is essential for the program's success. Four successful models of community-based, Stork's Nest partnerships are described below.*

#### **Prenatal care clinic sites**

Opening a nest at a hospital or prenatal care clinic site provides convenience and a physical incentive for clients to attend their prenatal care appointments. Clinic sites offering on-site prenatal and well-child care, WIC, and other social services are convenient for women to use, especially when transportation to prenatal care visits is difficult. They also offer access to hospital staff and volunteers who may potentially extend Stork's Nest hours of operation. When choosing a clinic site, be sure that most of the pregnant women served meet the criteria for Stork's Nest clients – low income and need encouragement to keep their prenatal appointments.

#### **Churches and other community-based sites**

Nests housed within community-based organizations (CBOs) usually have coordinated referral arrangements with several community agencies providing services for pregnant women. Community-based Nests are accessible to clients, highly visible in the community, and have potential for strong grass roots leadership. Successful operation of Stork's Nest programs in CBOs requires close coordination and follow-up with partnering referral agencies.

#### **Managed care organizations**

Managed care organizations (MCOs) are increasingly providing prenatal care for low-income pregnant women, making them effective partners for delivering Stork's Nest services. Stork's Nest can help improve and expand prenatal education services for low-income, pregnant MCO members through its incentive and education components. Working with MCOs requires flexibility for handling occasional provider turnover that can arise due to changes within the health care industry.

#### **Third party funding arrangements**

March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta chapters may raise and allocate funds to prenatal care providers to implement Stork's Nest as part of their on-going services. March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta volunteers train site personnel, monitor program implementation, evaluate program activities, and provide volunteers as needed. This arrangement may be effective for large metropolitan areas or for locations without enough volunteers to sustain a new Nest site. Although hands-on duties of volunteers may be reduced, this method potentially allows more communities to benefit from Stork's Nest services.