



# **March of Dimes Chapter Community Grants Program**

## **2007 Application Guidelines**

March of Dimes  
Iowa State Chapter  
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## **PURPOSE**

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies.

Launched in 2003, the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign is a multiyear, multimillion-dollar research, awareness and education campaign to help families have healthier babies. The campaign includes: 1.) funding research to find the causes of premature birth, 2.) educating women about risk reduction strategies, including the signs and symptoms of premature labor, 3.) providing support to families affected by prematurity, 4.) expanding access to health care coverage so that more women can get early and adequate prenatal care, 5.) helping health care providers learn ways to help reduce the risk of early delivery, and 6.) advocating for access to insurance to improve maternity care and infant health outcomes. For information about how your organization can become more involved with this campaign, contact the Iowa Chapter.

As part of this effort, the Iowa Chapter community grants program is designed to invest in priority projects that further the March of Dimes mission, support national campaign objectives, and further our strategic goal of reducing disparities in birth outcomes. Proposals will be accepted from organizations with the capacity, competence and experience to accomplish project goals and objectives through one of the following strategies:

1. Increasing Access to and Quality of Health Care for Women and Infants
2. Increasing Availability of Prevention Services
3. Increasing Availability of Genetics Services and Folic Acid Education

The applicant must provide services in Iowa. The chapter community grants fund for 2007 is approximately \$54,000. It is anticipated that 8 projects will be funded, with awards ranging from approximately \$3,000 to \$10,000 each. Chapter community grants are approved for one year.

In addition, \$6,000 is available for small one-time projects. There is a shorter application for these awards. Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$2,999 each.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible to receive a March of Dimes chapter grant, an organization must be an incorporated not-for-profit 501(c)(3) or for profit organization or government agency. **The March of Dimes does not award grants to individuals.** Applicants must disclose any conflict of interest due to representation by their organization on the chapter's Program Services Committee or the Chapter or Division Board of Directors.

## **2007 GRANT SCHEDULE**

Applications due	September 25, 2006
Notification of awards	January, 2007
Grant period	January 2007-December 2007

**PLEASE NOTE: March of Dimes chapter community grants do not fund scientific research projects.** For information about research grants funded by the March of Dimes national office, please

refer to the March of Dimes Web site at [marchofdimes.com](http://marchofdimes.com) or e-mail the Office of Research and Grants Administration at [researchgrants@marchofdimes.com](mailto:researchgrants@marchofdimes.com).

## **FUNDING PERIOD**

Chapter community grants are approved for one year. Consideration of continued support in subsequent years requires resubmission of a proposal or planned activities for the next year, and is based on review of progress and expenditure reports, and the availability of funding. Grants may be renewed only twice for a total project time span of three years.

## **FUNDING PRIORITY AREAS**

All grant proposals must address the March of Dimes mission of improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Priority will be given to projects that, based on community needs, address increased access to health care and/or prevention services to help reduce disparities in preterm birth. Project interventions may be provider and/or consumer focused.

### **Increasing Access to and Quality of Health Care for Women and Infants**

- a) Enhancing education and support services for high-risk pregnant women. Preference will be given to interventions that focus on reducing disparities in birth outcomes. This may include March of Dimes programs such as Stork's Nest® and Comenzando bien®. \*
- b) Increasing participation in state or local maternal child health programs (e.g. Medicaid, SCHIP, WIC) through enhanced outreach, education and public awareness.
- c) Enhancing preconception/interconception education and support services for women at high-risk due to previous poor outcomes, chronic conditions (i.e. diabetes, hypertension) or other risk factors.

### **Increasing Availability of Prevention Services**

- d) Increasing smoking cessation services available to pregnant women who smoke. Preference will be given to prenatal health education and information/referral services that utilize the "5 A's" counseling approach. \*\*
- e) Increasing prenatal health education and information/referral services available to pregnant women who use alcohol or other drugs.

### **Increasing Availability of Genetics Services and Folic Acid Education**

- f) Enhancing the availability, quality and utilization of genetics services and/or other patient services related to preventable birth defects.
- g) Increasing folic acid education and use of multi-vitamins among women of childbearing age.

\* For more information on these March of Dimes programs, contact the Iowa chapter.

\*\* For more information on the "5 A's" counseling approach, visit [www.acog.org](http://www.acog.org)