

## **Head Start Dental Home Initiative in Collaboration with KinderSmile Foundation**

A pilot project for Dental Home Initiative was developed in collaboration with New Jersey Head Start association, Director for Head Start Collaboration for the State from Office of Head Start and KinderSmile Foundation. This project will address two specific goals to increase the number of Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) children completing their dental follow-up in a timely manner; to provide oral health and related nutrition education to parents of HS/EHS children and to raise the level of awareness of oral health prevention at home, and as partners with HS/EHS understand and comply with all Head Start requirements related to Oral Health.

**HS/ DHI Project period is from 03/31/11 through 03/30/12, Total amount applied (Pending) \$8,700 including \$5,000 for KSF Services and \$3,700 for Administrative / report writing by NJ Head Start Association.** Grantees serving children in HS, EHS and or Migrant Programs having difficulties in complying with Head Start regulations will be selected at random to participate. KinderSmile's role and responsibilities will be to conduct Periodic evaluation of funded activities through site visits; review of dental health data tracking generated by the participating programs. The selected programs will use the Tool-kit developed by NJ Smiles that was provided during the first wave of the grant.

Individual programs (six) will be visited by team from KinderSmile Foundation three times during the funding period. The selection of the sites will occur in early April. **The initial visit will occur in late April-May 2011** to learn about the needs/barriers faced by the program, interview staff, parents, and community partners, review existing program plans, policies and procedure for dental follow-up.

**Second visit will be done in August-September 2011** to provide training for the designated HS/EHS sites using the Tool-Kit dental tracking form. The form tracks dental homes, follow-up, parent education, and insurance information. The project will track the outcome measurements for dental follow-up and oral health education for the designated sites.

**Final visit completed in January-February 2012** to review the results from dental health data tracking form; evaluate the service delivery; and survey the designated sites to obtain feedback regarding the effectiveness of the pilot project.

The project will be replicated with modifications based on feedback from the evaluation. The New Jersey Head Start Association will monitor the project and will be the fiscal agent of the project.