



# National Healthy Start Association, Inc.



**Belinda Pettiford (02-05)**

*President*  
HEALTHY START EASTERN, NORTHEASTERN AND  
TRIAD BABY LOVE PLUS, RALEIGH (NC)

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*Vice President*  
(FORMER PROJECT DIRECTOR)  
NEW HAVEN HEALTHY START (CT)

**Jonah O. Garcia (03-06)**

*Secretary; Chair, Membership Services Committee*  
HEALTHY START: ADOLESCENT FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM,  
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**Jerry Roberson (03-06)**

*Treasurer*  
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*Past President*  
DUVALL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT/  
ADMINISTRATION – MCH (FL)

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*Co-Chair, Development Committee*  
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**Deborah Frazier (FORMER BOARD MEMBER)**

*Co-Chair, Development Committee*  
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*Chair, Sustainability Committee*  
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INDIANAPOLIS HEALTHY START (IN)

**Estrellita “Lo” Berry (03-06)**

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**Pamela Bryer (03-06)**

HEALTHY START FOR CHESTER COUNTY (PA)

**Dianna Christmas (02-05)**

BOSTON HEALTHY START INITIATIVE (MA)

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CENTRAL HARLEM HEALTHY START (NY)

**Cindi Garcia (03-06)**

HEALTHY START LAREDO (TX)

**Rick Haverkate (02-04)**

MAAJTAAG MNOBMAADZID, “A START OF A HEALTHY LIFE,”  
SAULT STE. MARIE (MI)

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VNS HEALTHY START, DES MOINES (IA)

**Patricia McManus (02-05)**

MILWAUKEE HEALTHY BEGINNINGS PROJECT (WI)

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**Karen Owes (04-07)**

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HEALTHY START ALLEGHENY COUNTY/FAYETTE COUNTY (PA)

**Carlton Purvis (04-07)**

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS, MEDFORD (OR)

**Peter Schafer (03-06)**

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTHY START (MD)

**Danetta Taylor (03-06)**

IMPROVING PREGNANCY OUTCOMES PROGRAM, OAKLAND (CA)

The National Healthy Start Association

## For Immediate Release

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### Three Lawmakers Honored by the National Healthy Start Association

The National Healthy Start Association (NHSA), which represents ninety-six federally funded Healthy Start sites in 37 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, gave three annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Senator Jim Talent (R-MO), Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Congressman Edward Towns (D-NY) during ceremonies on Capitol Hill today.

“Tonight we honor three stalwart supporter of Healthy Start, which has successfully reduced infant mortality in many communities where racial and ethnic disparities exist in perinatal outcomes,” said Belinda Pettiford, NHSA President. “We are very pleased to express our appreciation to these members of Congress for their invaluable help.”

Over the past two years, Senators Talent and Lautenberg have circulated letters to their Senate colleagues urging increased funding for Healthy Start, the only federal program that is community-based and focused on reducing infant mortality through a range of services that directly affect healthy births. Congressman Towns has provided leadership within the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to ensure that funding for the program is on the CBC priority list each year, especially since racial disparities in health care affect the percentage of healthy births in many communities.

While the primary goal of Healthy Start is to eliminate perinatal health disparities, this federal grant program has also included special funds for border communities, interconceptional care, depression screening, and family violence. The causes of infant mortality and low birthweight are complex and must be addressed in multiple ways.

In their acceptance remarks to an audience that included more than 200 Healthy Start workers as well as consumers from across the country, the members of Congress who were honored expressed appreciation for the work of the attendees and their strong belief in the federal investment in Healthy Start.

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