



The Healthy Start National Evaluation

Presentation to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality

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Abt

Abt Associates Inc.



MATHEMATICA
Policy Research, Inc.

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- **Background and Update on Evaluation Activities**
 - **Overall Evaluation Approach**
 - **Review of Phase 1 evaluation design**
 - **Next steps**

Evaluation Overview

- **The evaluation is a four-year effort:**
 - Phase 1 is focused on the full universe of grantees
 - Phase 2 is a more in-depth evaluation of a subset of grantees
- **The evaluation is of the national program not of individual grantee performance**
- **The initial Phase 1 evaluation focuses on implementation of the program linked to results**
- **Key stakeholder inputs are critical to the evaluation effort**

Background and Current Status

- **Two-year contract awarded September 29, 2002 to Abt Associates, Inc. and its subcontractor Mathematica Policy Resources, Inc. to conduct an implementation evaluation of all 96 grantees**
- **Contract is in its second year with completion of the following:**
 - Evaluation design based on key stakeholder inputs
 - Data collection package for OMB clearance
- **Currently waiting for OMB clearance and receipt of grantee materials to begin data collection, analysis and completion of Phase 1 evaluation**

Update: July 2003 to present

- **Completed of survey development**
- **Conducted grantee workshop at September meeting**
- **Submitted annual report and executive summary**
- **Prepared for data collection activities and drafted analysis plan**

A Participatory Approach To the Evaluation

■ Obtained input to evaluation design and data collection instruments

- Healthy Start Program
- Grantees: National Meetings, ListServ, Pilot testing
- TEPEHS
- SACIM

A Participatory Approach To the Evaluation

■ Inputs helped:

- Clarify emphasis of the Phase 1 evaluation
- Refine key evaluation questions
- Develop and expand conceptual model/framework for understanding the Healthy Start Program
- Develop content for and refine data collection tools

The Key Evaluation Questions

- **We will answer three main questions during Phase 1:**

- What are the features of Healthy Start programs?
- What results have Healthy Start programs achieved?
- What is the link between program features and program results?

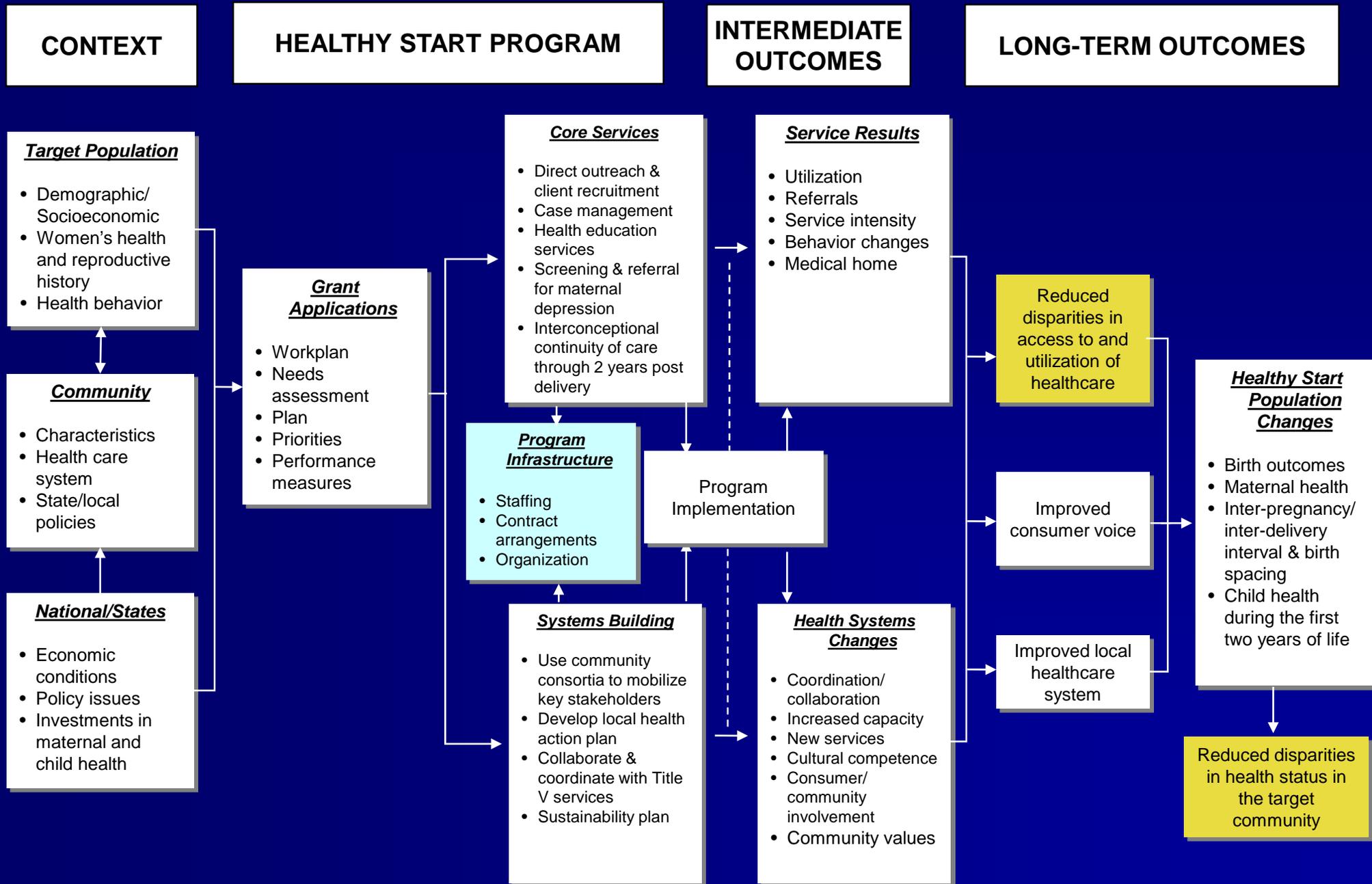
- **Phase 2 will address a fourth question:**

- What types of HS programs (or program features) are associated with improved perinatal outcomes?

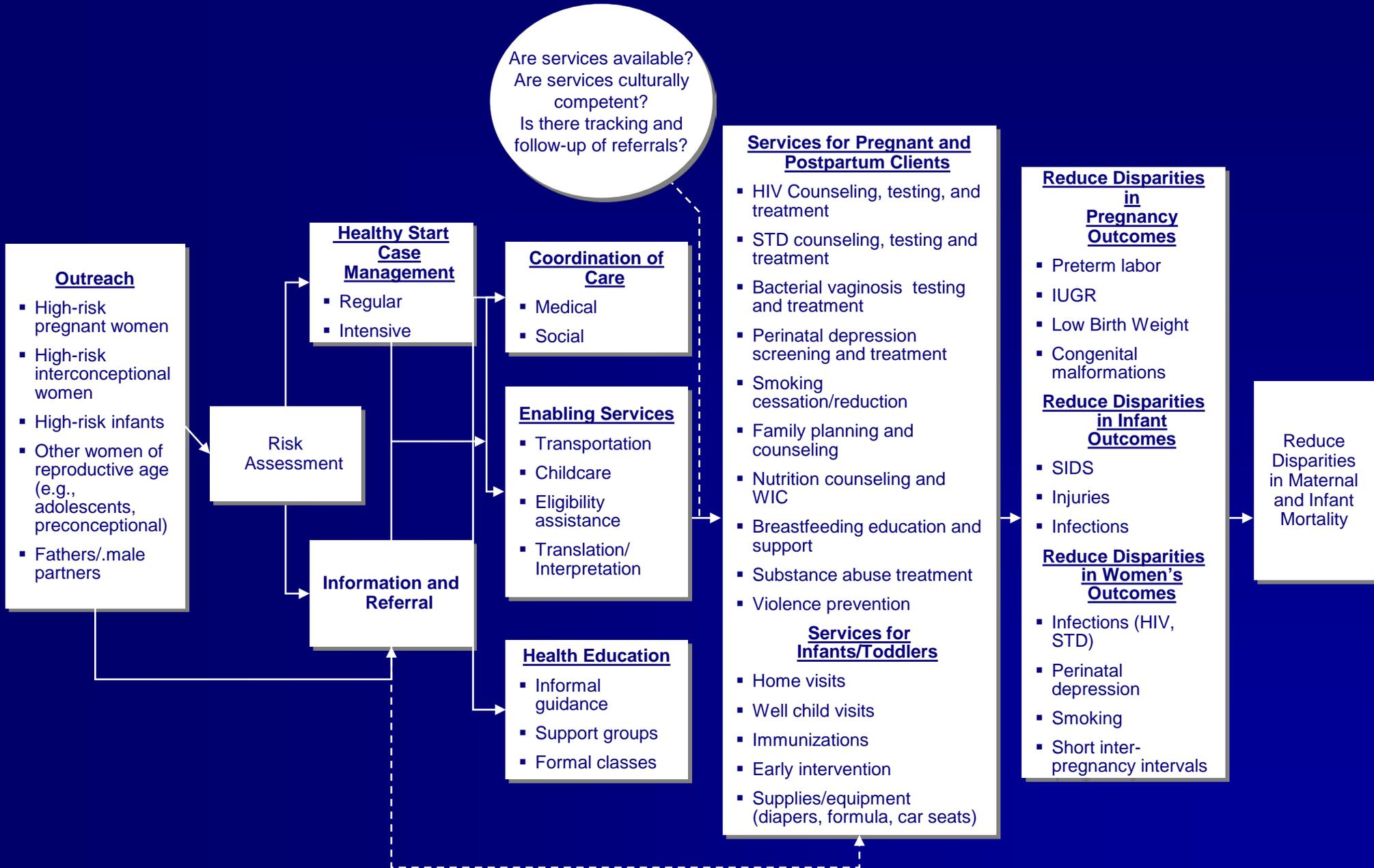
Understanding the Program

- **The logic model helps us understand how the program is expected to affect results and outcomes**
- **Two additional diagrams support more detailed examination of implementation and results**
- **Together, these models provide a conceptual framework to help us:**
 - Identify key features of the program and the types of results to be achieved
 - Develop appropriate data collection tools

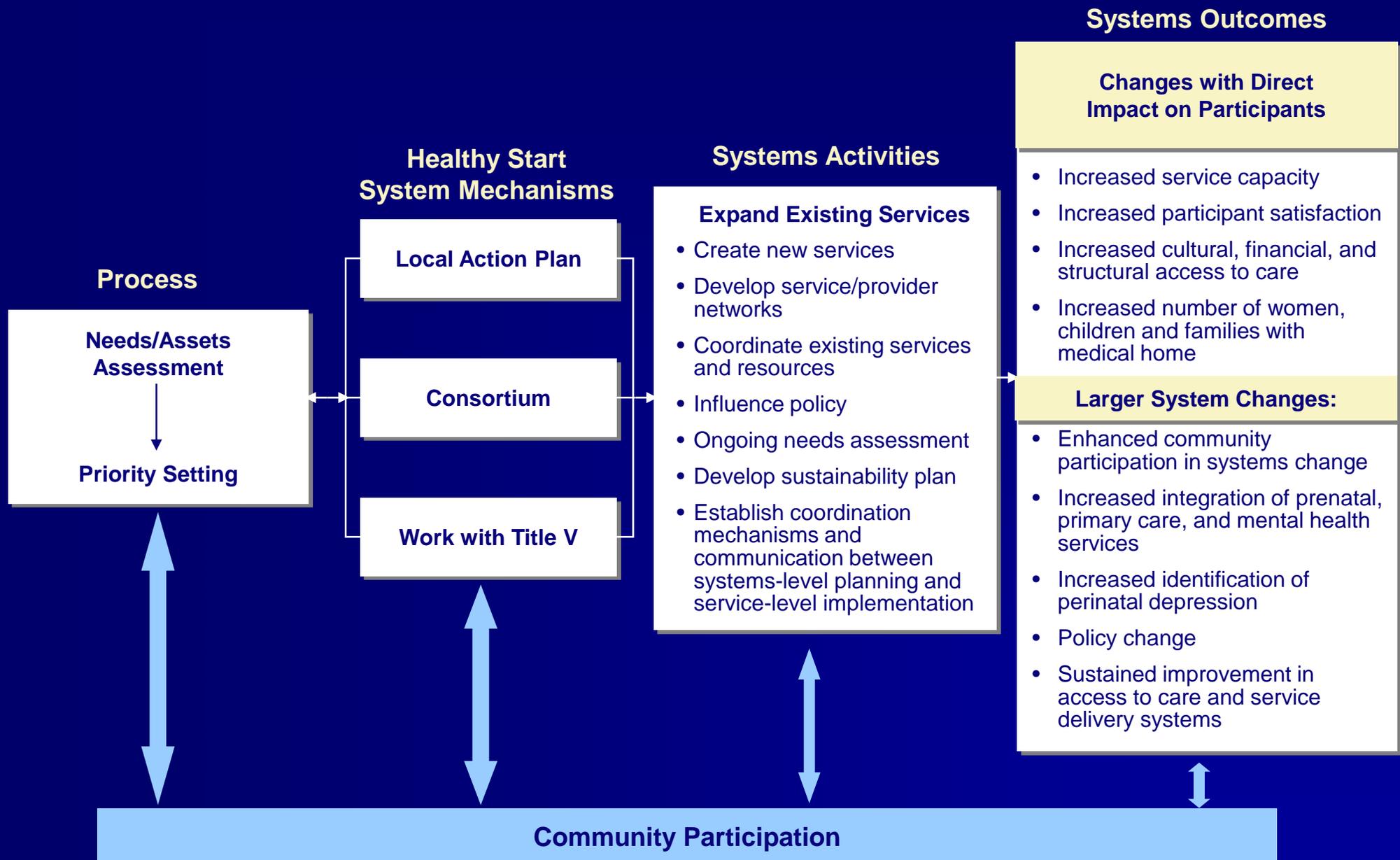
Healthy Start Logic Model



Hypothesized Link Between Healthy Start Services and Results



Hypothesized Link Between Healthy Start Systems Activities and Results



Evaluation Design: Data Collection Strategy

- Data for Phase 1 emphasizes primary data collected by survey supplemented by grantee reports and grantee CY 2003 performance measurement data
- Use of data contained in grantee program reporting requirements will be limited by its consistency and quality

Mail Survey: Development and Piloting

- **Intensive development process**
- **Pilot and cognitive testing process**
 - Grantees have the necessary information
 - Survey long but doable
 - Electronic format will increase ease of responding
- **Revisions required to better coordinate with new grant guidance requests**

Scope of the Mail Survey

■ Staffing and organizational structure

- Types of staff and staffing issues such as training, cultural competence, turnover, service sites

■ Healthy Start Services components

- Outreach/recruitment, intake/enrollment, retention, risk assessment/ service planning, case management, enabling services, health education, home visiting, smoking cessation/reduction, perinatal depression, interconceptional care, services to infants and toddlers, male involvement services
- Questions on organizational strategies, staffing, and barriers

Scope of the Mail Survey (cont.)

■ Systems components:

- Consortium, local health systems action plan, coordination with Title V and other organizations and other specific activities
- Questions on how grantees address the need for systems changes, community voice (inputs), results achieved, and barriers

■ Reflections on program and results

Using Grantee Reports

- **Structure and content of grantee reports revised to improve consistency across grantees**
- **Some data elements will be abstracted from grantee reports to reduce reporting burden on grantees**
- **Data from grantee applications may provide more detailed descriptions of Healthy Start activities**
- **Data anticipated in April**

Using Performance Measurement Data

- **Our data collection strategy is designed to complement (not duplicate) the information being collected through the performance measures**
- **We will work with MCHB to assess the feasibility of including performance measurement data in the Phase 1 evaluation**
- **Our Phase 1 report will include measures of program features and results, where data permit**

Using Performance Measurement Data

■ Potential measures:

- Percent of women and children with a medical home
- Percent of pregnant clients who had a prenatal visit during first trimester
- Incorporation of cultural competence elements
- Facilitation of provider screening for risk factors
- Assessment of system of care for women's health services
- Number of people served (pregnant women, children, other)
- Adequacy of prenatal care
- Low birthweight births
- Number screened/counseled/referred for further assessment or treatment by risk factor

Analysis Plan: Three Components

■ Component 1: Descriptive Analysis of Program Features

- Will produce a national profile of Healthy Start program features
- Will describe the Healthy Start program features including the range and variation across programs and the “national program”
- Component level analysis will show range and variation of approaches

Analysis Plan: Three Components continued

■ Component 2: Descriptive Analysis of Results Achieved by Healthy Start Programs

- Describe the results of Healthy Start programs during the current grant cycle, based on data collected through the survey and performance measures
- Primary reliance will be on data from the mail survey to provide consistent quantitative data by which to describe the results achieved by the national program
- Performance measures will be used selectively to support evidence on results

Analysis Plan: Three Components continued

■ Component 3: Linking Program Features with Program Results

- Can we identify whether there are certain features or approaches that are associated with particular (desired) results?
- Descriptive and multivariate analyses will be used to determine how results vary in relation to the way programs are structured
- The analysis will control for certain basic characteristics
- The specific analytic approach will be developed based on findings from Components 1 and 2

Next Steps

■ Implementation of data collection efforts

- Fielding survey
- Receipt and abstracting of grantee guidance information
- Receipt and review of performance measurement data

■ Data Analysis

■ Draft and Final Reports

■ Phase 2 planning