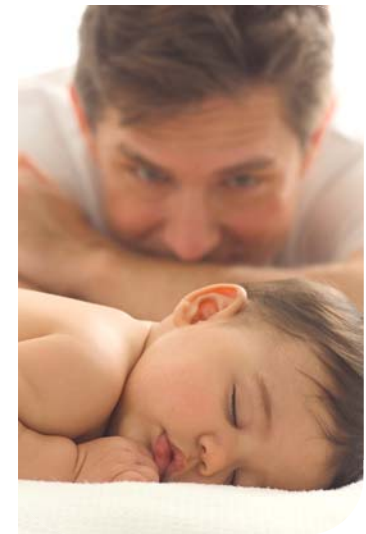


MISSION STATEMENT

SHIELDS for families is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to developing, delivering, and evaluating culturally sensitive, comprehensive service models that empower and advocate for high-risk families for over 20 years.



We believe that with education, access to appropriate services and caring guidance, families can rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community, nurturing parents and achieve all of their dreams.



HISTORY

SHIELDS was formed in 1987 in response to high incidence of infants born prenatally exposed to drugs at Martin Luther King Hospital in South Central Los Angeles.

SHIELDS began providing services to this unique population and has since grown to provide over 30 comprehensive, family-centered, wrap-around programs addressing issues facing high-risk families in South LA.



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SHIELDS for Families is an equal opportunity service provider that does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief, citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, or participation in any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

www.shieldsforfamilies.org



SHIELDS is a partner in the South Los Angeles Best Babies Collaborative working to improve birth outcomes to high-risk pregnant and parenting substance abusing women with chronic hypertension and/or diabetes through the provision of comprehensive case management.

Best Babies





The mission of the South Los Angeles Best Babies Collaborative is to promote healthier pregnancies, birth outcomes, and interconceptional care in South Los Angeles communities by **strengthening linkages between community-based medical and social service providers**. SHIELDS works with the lead agency, LA BioMedical Research Institute, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center South, to accomplish these goals by providing intensive case management services and support to high risk pregnant and parenting substance abusing women with chronic hypertension and/or diabetes.



SHIELDS, as a partner in the South Los Angeles Best Babies Collaborative, provides **intensive case management** for high-risk pregnant and parenting substance abusing women, with a specific focus on

women who also are experiencing chronic hypertension and/or diabetes. In addition, SHIELDS provides social support classes to pregnant and parenting teens in order to provide a safe place for them to talk about their problems with their peers. Health education classes are also offered in English and Spanish where women can learn how to take care of themselves and their children.

As a community driven intervention, Best Babies has been very successful in improving birth outcomes for families in South LA. Mothers who had previously been at-risk for delivering pre-term and/or low birth weight infants are now receiving **education, quality health care, intensive case management, social support groups, mental health and substance abuse treatment**.



Program Highlights

- Best Babies Collaborative Partners include: LA BioMedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, INMED/MotherNet LA, South Central Family Health Center, SHIELDS and Watts Healthcare Corporation.
- The Collaborative utilizes the “Healthy Births Initiative Core Approaches” to improve birth and pregnancy outcomes and strengthen community support.
- Since implementation, the Collaborative has served 414 pregnant and parenting mothers and their families.
- All of the babies born to substance abusing mothers served by SHIELDS were born drug free and weighed over 5 lbs. at birth.