

**2007 Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership and Greater Kentucky Chapter March Of Dimes Program Plan
Community Action**

Community Action Problem Statements		
<p>1. Folic Acid: Women who take folic acid before and during early pregnancy can help prevent serious birth defects of the spine and brain. Although folic acid fortification of cereal-grain products became mandatory in the United States in 1998, recent data indicates a significant decline in serum folate concentrations among women aged 15-44. Non-Hispanic black women had the lowest serum folate concentrations and did not meet the 2010 national health objective (objective 16-16b) for median RBC folate concentration. For these reasons, the recommendation continues that all women of childbearing age consume at least 400 micrograms of folic acid daily through dietary supplements and fortified foods, in addition to a diet containing folate-rich foods. Source: CDC, Folate Status in Women of Childbearing Age, by Race/Ethnicity-United states, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, and 2003-2004, MMWR 2007;55:1377-80.</p>		
<p>2. Prematurity: Prematurity/low birthweight is the leading cause of death in the first month of life. In addition to mortality, prematurity is a major determinant of illness and disability among infants, including developmental delays, chronic respiratory problems and vision and hearing impairment. While the specific causes of spontaneous preterm labor and delivery are largely unknown, research indicates that they are likely due to a complex interplay of multiple risk factors, as opposed to any single isolated risk factor. In 2003, there were 7,737 preterm births in Kentucky, representing 14.0% of live births. Between 1993 and 2003 the rate of infants born preterm in Kentucky increased nearly 24%. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, final natality data, retrieve 10/3/06 from www.marchofdimes.com/peristats</p>		
<p>Folic Acid Goal: To increase the proportion of women who take a vitamin containing folic acid daily</p>		
<p>Prematurity Goals: To increase public awareness of the problem of prematurity and to increase the number of pregnant women who know the signs and symptoms of premature labor.</p>		
<i>Objectives</i> (Objectives are measurable statements that specify the outcomes of program activities, products or services within a specific time frame).	<i>Activities to achieve objective</i> (Describe the methods necessary to achieve objectives. Tell who is going to do what, where, how and when.)	<i>Comments</i> (Optional)
<p>Objective 1.1 Partners will actively support the Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership</p>	<p>Activity 1 The KY Dept. for Public Health and Barren River Dist. Health Dept. will fund the Folic Acid Coordinator position during 2007.</p>	

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	<p>Activity 2 Statewide Folic Acid Coordinator will maintain administrative support for Partnership including but not limited to, meeting minutes, members, mailing/email lists, completing Folic Acid/Prematurity Activity Tracking Forms.</p>	
	<p>Activity 3 KFAP members will continue active roles in the Partnership and its sub-committees by reporting activities, attending meetings, and/or communicating by mail, fax, phone or e-mail.</p>	
	<p>Activity 4 The Folic Acid Partnership Chair and/or the statewide folic acid coordinator will serve on the March of Dimes Chapter PSC.</p>	
	<p>Activity 5 The Partnership will have at least three meetings during 2007. Explore the possibility of conducting some of the meetings via videoteleconference.</p>	
<p>Objective 1.2 Increase public awareness of perinatal health issues</p>	<p>Activity 1 Orient and update March Of Dimes staff and volunteers about folic acid and prematurity at staff and volunteer meetings during 2007</p>	
	<p>Activity 2 Display and distribute March of Dimes educational materials on folic acid and prematurity at MOD events, such as WalkAmerica, special events, and mission/program and volunteer development events.</p>	

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	<p>Activity 3 Expand folic acid and prematurity information on www.kfap.org.</p>	
	<p>Activity 4 Support local smoke-free ordinances.</p>	
<p>Objective 1.3 Increase the proportion of non-pregnant women of childbearing age who report taking a multivitamin containing folic acid every day by December 2007.</p>	<p>Activity 1 Provide folic acid information at 20 bridal, expectant parent and/or baby fairs or other community events that target women of childbearing age.</p>	
	<p>Activity 2 Develop a plan to promote folic acid to women of childbearing age through pharmacies.</p>	
<p>Objective 1.4 Increase pregnant women's knowledge of the warning signs of preterm labor and what to do if they occur.</p>	<p>Activity 1 Provide at least 40 classes to pregnant women to educate them about preterm labor and how to have a healthy pregnancy.</p>	
	<p>Activity 2 Train Regional Prevention Specialists and Case Managers for Kids Now Plus on prematurity and preterm labor.</p>	
	<p>Activity 3 Distribute information about preterm labor signs and symptoms on home visits through the HANDS program.</p>	
<p>Objective 1.5 Increase public awareness of the problem of preterm births</p>	<p>Activity 1 Produce and distribute prematurity toolkits for community leaders to use to target community groups, such as businesses, churches/faith-based groups, women's groups, and civic organizations.</p>	

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	Activity 2 Speak to at least 10 community groups about the issue of preterm births.	
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