

Dear Healthy Start Colleagues,

It seems that from the start, 2020 has been a challenging, upside-down year. Earlier, an unprecedented pandemic swept over the globe, leaving millions of people struggling in the wake of medical, emotional, and financial consequences. More recently, we have been reminded once again that the work we do – including the communities we serve and the lives we touch every day through the Healthy Start program – is critical in the work of eliminating health disparities in this country. Our work helps rewrite the narrative of the lives of the men, women, and children who are often disadvantaged and left without a good foundation – a “healthy start” – to their lives.

Very often, the people we work with face disadvantages and circumstances that negatively impact their health and their well-being whether they are mothers, children, or families. Your work lifts up individuals and provides tools to help them thrive in their communities and in this country. This is difficult work.

The staff here in the Division recognize how hard this work is, how personal it is. As we each wrestle through our own personal circumstances, we want to extend our support to you – support to continue on with your good work. What you do every day puts the world right-side-up again.

This Virtual Healthy Start Grantees’ Meeting is intended be an exchange with you, the Healthy Start Family – to see you, to hear you, and to let you know that we appreciate you and your good work. You, every one of you working with Healthy Start, provide haven, support, and reassurance to the individuals and communities you/we serve.

Thank you for the dedication, commitment, enthusiasm, and countless hours you pour into these communities across the country.

We are proud of you all, and we look forward to working with you now and into the future.

Lee Wilson  
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