



**Children's Health Fund**

# National Network

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## Dallas Children's Health Project



The Dallas Children's Health Project (DCHP), provides comprehensive medical care to two populations: homeless children and low birth weight infants. The DCHP is part of Children's Health Fund's Referral Management Initiative, which is designed to ensure that children in high-risk populations have access to specialty care.

Children and families in Dallas face numerous barriers to health care such as poverty, lack of insurance and inadequate transportation, all of which are compounded by language and cultural barriers, as many of these families are of Hispanic origin. Specific issues faced by the children and adolescents served by DCHP include significant levels of developmental delay or school failure; poor reading levels; family dysfunction such as domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and mental illness; nutritional problems such as anemia and obesity; and minor acute illnesses. Mental health and dental services are particularly difficult for Spanish speakers to access.

### Serving Communities in Need

Of the homeless individuals served by the DCHP in 2010, 44% were African American, 12% were Latino/Hispanic, 25% were white, 19% other or >1 race. Twenty-three percent of the children were enrolled in Medicaid at some point during the year.



The Low Birth Weight Clinics (Project First Step) primarily serve residents of Dallas County who live outside the city of Dallas. The ethnic composition of the clinics is as follows: 91% Latino/Hispanic, 4% African American, 4% white and 2% other. Most of the children in the project are uninsured but there are some infants with Medicaid.

### Available Services

- ▣ Comprehensive primary care, including physical examinations;
- ▣ Management of acute and chronic illnesses;
- ▣ Family planning services, including STD screening and treatment;
- ▣ Nutrition assessment and counseling;
- ▣ Health education;
- ▣ Mental health services and case management;
- ▣ Substance abuse counseling; and
- ▣ Referral Management, sub specialty referrals and social service referrals.

### Program Sites

The DCHP serves patients at various sites throughout Dallas; site visits occur on a regular basis, ranging from biweekly to twice a month. The Project's homeless patients receive services on Mobile Medical Clinics that visit the following locations: Family Gateway, Family Gateway Transitional, Family Place, Center of Hope, Dallas Life Foundation, Interfaith Housing Coalition, Letot, Medlock, Mosaic, Nexus, Vogel Alcove Childcare Center, Promise House, Reconciliation Outreach Shared Housing and Youth Village. The low birth weight clinics are held at Dallas County Health Department clinic sites in Grand Prairie and Irving.

## PROGRAM FACTS

### Home Institution/Affiliation:

Parkland Health & Hospital System

### Year Established:

April 1991

### Electronic Health Records Implemented:

2002

### STAFF

#### Medical Director:

Susan Heinlen Spalding, MD

#### Family Practitioner:

Lara Johnson, MD

#### Nurse Manager:

Debbie Phillips, RN

#### Program Coordinator:

David Hallmark

#### Senior Community Development Specialist:

Kyla Rankin, LMSW

#### Dietician:

Kathleen Shaw, RD

#### Nurse Practitioner:

Sylvia Fletcher, FNP  
Cynthia Watkins, FNP  
Terry Wilk, FNP  
Cassie McElroy, FNP



[www.childrenshealthfund.org](http://www.childrenshealthfund.org)

