FUNDING PRIORITIES
Increasing Access to and Quality of Health Care for Women and Infants
a) Enhancing education and support services for high-risk pregnant women. Preference will be given to interventions that focus on reducing disparities in birth outcomes. This may include March of Dimes programs such as Stork’s Nest® and Comenzando bien®. *

b) Increasing participation in state or local maternal child health programs (e.g. Medicaid, SCHIP, WIC) through enhanced outreach, education and public awareness.

c) Enhancing preconception/interconception education and support services for women at high-risk due to previous poor outcomes, chronic conditions (i.e. diabetes, hypertension) or other risk factors.

Increasing Availability of Prevention Services
d) Increasing smoking cessation services available to pregnant women who smoke. Preference will be given to prenatal health education and information/referral services that utilize the "5 A's" counseling approach. **

e) Increasing education and services (excluding billable services) for urinary and reproductive tract infections in women. This may include sexually transmitted infections.

f) Increasing prenatal health education and information/referral services available to pregnant women who use alcohol or other drugs.

Increasing Availability of Genetics Services and Folic Acid Education
g) Enhancing the availability, quality and utilization of genetics services and/or other patient services related to preventable birth defects.

h) Increasing folic acid education and use of multi-vitamins among women of childbearing age.

Enhancing SIDS Education
i) Increasing education related to reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Syndrome in high risk communities, consistent with the 2005 American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines.

* For more information on these March of Dimes programs, contact the New Jersey chapter.

** For more information on the "5'As" counseling approach, visit www.acog.org
Purpose
The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies.

Launched in 2003, the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign is a multiyear, multimillion-dollar research, awareness and education campaign to help families have healthier babies. The campaign includes: 1.) funding research to find the causes of premature birth, 2.) educating women about risk reduction strategies, including the signs and symptoms of premature labor, 3.) providing support to families affected by prematurity, 4.) expanding access to health care coverage so that more women can get early and adequate prenatal care, 5.) helping health care providers learn ways to help reduce the risk of early delivery, and 6.) advocating for access to insurance to improve maternity care and infant health outcomes.

As part of this effort, the New Jersey Chapter community grants program is designed to invest in priority projects that further the March of Dimes mission, support national campaign objectives, and further our strategic goal of reducing disparities in birth outcomes.

Eligibility
In order to be eligible to receive a March of Dimes chapter grant, an organization must be an incorporated not-for-profit 501(c)(3) or for profit organization or government agency. The March of Dimes does not award grants to individuals. Applicants must disclose any conflict of interest due to representation by their organization on the chapter’s Program Services Committee or the Chapter or Division Board of Directors.

Funding Available
The applicant must provide services in New Jersey. The chapter community grants fund for 2007 is approximately $287,000. It is anticipated that 8 projects will be funded, with awards ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 each. Chapter community grants are approved for one year. For larger projects (requests of $40,000 or more per year), applicants may apply for funding for a 2 or 3 year time period.

Letter of Intent Format
The first step in the application process is to submit a Letter of Intent. The letter is limited to two pages and must address the following eight questions:

1. Which of the funding priorities is the project addressing?
2. Who is the target audience?
3. How many people will the project reach?
4. What are the measurable objectives?
5. How will project success be evaluated?
6. What impact will the project have?
7. What is the amount of funding requested?
8. What are the major budget categories?

Proposals must address at least one of the funding priorities listed in this brochure (see priorities a-i).

Review and Notification
A multi-disciplinary Program Services Committee will review the Letters of Intent. Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will be notified by May 26, 2006. Full proposals will be due to the chapter by August 4, 2006. Please be advised that Letters of Intent and proposals are non-binding.

Please Note:
March of Dimes chapter community grants do not fund scientific research projects. For information about research grants funded by the March of Dimes national office, please refer to the March of Dimes Web site at marchofdimes.com, or e-mail the Office of Research and Grants Administration at researchgrants@marchofdimes.com.

For Additional Information
Contact:

Laurie Navin, Director of Program Services
March of Dimes
New Jersey Chapter
5 Cedar Brook Drive
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512
(609) 655-7400
(609) 655-1520 Fax
Lnavin@marchofdimes.com

An original and 15 copies of the Letter of Intent must be received in the chapter office by May 5, 2006. Please also attach a page with your organization’s name and mailing address, and the phone, fax and e-mail (if applicable) of a contact person.