



**Community Development Institute**  
**HEAD START**

Serving Middlesex County  
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April 13, 2010

Hon. Christopher J. Christie  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Governor Christie:

We just learned that your proposed budget completely eliminates funding for family planning services. We are concerned about the devastating impact this will have on women's health care in New Jersey and urge you to restore funds for the vital services they provide.

Each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$4 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid-related costs alone. So, for the \$7.5 million saved by eliminating state funding for women's health care, the state will pay at least \$30 million more in Medicaid expenses.

In 2009, New Jersey's family planning agencies provided reproductive health care services to over 136,000 women and men. These services include a wide range of preventive health services such as routine gynecological exams; screening for high blood pressure, anemia and diabetes; contraception; breast and cervical cancer screening and education; screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs); HIV testing and counseling; pre-pregnancy counseling and education; pregnancy testing; and prenatal care and / or referral. State family planning dollars do not support abortion services.

CDI Head Start serving Middlesex County was granted the opportunity to develop a partnership with Planned Parenthood. They have provided extensive educational workshops in addition to individual counseling and support to the population we serve. One particular case is regarding a Head Start family with four children all under the age of five. As per the Family Advocate, "The mother came in to register her children for the program. It was during the intake that she informed me that her husband will not allow her to use birth control. This parent was extremely involved in the program. Both she and her husband attended monthly parent meetings. It was decided that Planned Parenthood would come and provide an educational workshop on Family Planning at the next meeting.

