

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rhode Island Foundation Believes Families First Rhode Island Can Make a Difference

October 21, 2009 - Providence, RI - Families First Rhode Island, a grassroots nonprofit organization, received a grant award of \$40,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation as a result of an extremely competitive process. Families First Rhode Island will be expanding its services into Southern Rhode Island by providing in-home evaluations, treatment referrals, social support, and parenting education to pregnant and postpartum women who are experiencing or at risk for depression.

“To more effectively meet the needs of families in Southern Rhode Island, we will provide the full range of our services directly to these communities” says Sarah Sinclair, Executive Director of Families First Rhode Island. **“We will provide 30 mothers with peer mentoring, clinical assessments and referrals, and social and educational gatherings. Volunteer mentor mothers will offer social support and build relationships with participating mothers through weekly home visits.”** Services are provided at no cost to families and are not restricted to first time mothers or to families based on income, insurance status or other characteristics.

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An independent study revealed that a sizable portion of the demand for Families First Rhode Island's services comes from the southern part of the state.

According to the RI Department of Health, one in 13 women who give birth in Rhode Island report being diagnosed with depression during pregnancy, therefore a need clearly exists to offer services to this population.

This project is one of many funded by the Rhode Island Foundation's strategy grants pool. "We are excited about Families First's plan to expand its services to more Rhode Islanders. This project directly aligns with our goal for the human services sector to support projects that incorporate best practices and get positive outcomes for at risk and vulnerable children and families," says Anna Cano-Morales, Associate Vice President for Grant Programs at The Rhode Island Foundation.

To learn more about Families First Rhode Island, visit their website at

www.familiesfirstri.org or contact them at (401) 383-9933.