



STRONG Beginnings

Strengthening families for a Healthy Start
751 Lafayette Avenue, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616.391.3940
Fax: 616.742.1015

REFERRAL FORM

1. Referral Information (please print)

Date of Referral: _____

- Strong Beginnings Main Office, fax to 616.742.1015
- Strong Beginnings African American Fatherhood Initiative, fax to 616.331.5839
- Strong Beginnings Latino Fatherhood Initiative, fax to 616.742.1015
- Strong Beginnings at Spectrum Health MIHP, fax to 616.391.6185
- Strong Beginnings at Cherry Health Services, fax to 616.235.7506
- Strong Beginnings at Kent County Health Department, fax to 616.632.7015
- Strong Beginnings at Mercy Health, fax to 616.685.3369

Referred By: Name _____
 Agency _____
 Phone _____

2. Client Information

Pregnant Parenting child <4 mos → Name and DOB of child: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ DOB: ____ / ____ / ____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Other: _____

Email (optional): _____

Primary Language: English Spanish Other (please specify) _____

Is client or her child currently enrolled in a home visiting program? Yes No

If so, where? _____

3. Office Use Only

Referred to: _____ Date: _____

Enrolled in Strong Beginnings (check one): Yes → Date Enrolled: _____ No

Comments: _____

Program Overview

Strong Beginnings is a community program dedicated to enhancing the health of African American and Latinx mothers, fathers, and their babies from pregnancy to early childhood. Strong Beginnings is a partnership of agencies working together to improve birth outcomes and promote child well-being.

Services include family support to ensure that women and men are healthy and receive needed services, including prenatal care, medical care, mental health counseling, transportation, breastfeeding support, and parenting education.

Community Health Workers make home visits to provide social support, referrals, and education. They work together with nurses, social workers, and dietitians from the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) at Kent County Health Department, Cherry Health, Metro Health Community Clinic, Mercy Health, and Spectrum Health.

The Grand Rapids African American Health Institute offer services for African American male partners. Latino male partners receive services through Strong Beginnings at Spectrum Health.

Behavioral and mental health counseling is provided by Arbor Circle.

Services are provided throughout pregnancy and for 18 months after delivery.

Eligibility Requirements for Enrollment

Strong Beginnings services are offered to residents of Kent County who are:

- Pregnant or the partner of a pregnant woman
- Caring for children under four months of age
- Medicaid eligible

For More Information

For general information, contact Strong Beginnings at 616.391.3940

For information on the African American Fatherhood Initiative, please call 616.331.5839.

For information on the Latino Fatherhood Initiative, please call 616.267.7865.

For information on community education programs such as parenting courses, safe sleep, breastfeeding, and preconception health, please call 616.391.5830 for English classes and 616.267.7865 for Spanish classes.

Strong Beginnings provides services for African American and Latinx mothers, fathers and their babies through these partners:

- Arbor Circle
- Metro Health Community Clinic
- Cherry Health
- Grand Rapids African American Health Institute
- Kent County Health Department
- Mercy Health Saint Mary's
- Spectrum Health MIHP Program