



- develop in collaboration with health and social service providers and other stakeholders, an integrated, effective early identification, assessment and referral system for children 0-6 years of age;
- develop protocols with health and social service providers to ensure easy access to a coordinated system of supports and services for those referred as at risk;
- provide central access to information on healthy child development, parenting, community and professional services;
- report annually to the Chief Medical Officer of Health about the activities of the program

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Ottawa-Carleton Health Department will receive annual funding from the province, to implement the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program. Our annual allocation is based on an equitable funding formula that takes into account the 0-4 child population, geographic dispersion, the rates of low birth weight, low income, and home language other than English or French. Our initial annual allocation is \$628,158.

#### CONCLUSION

The Ottawa-Carleton Health Department welcomes the addition of this new program and accompanying funding. The program will build on current activities targeted to expectant parents, newborns and young children and will significantly enhance current services to this target group. The Health Department looks forward to working collaboratively with its health and social services partners to develop a program that builds on programs and services already existing in our community.

*Approved by*  
*Robert Cushman, MD, MBA, FRCPC*