March for Babies is right around the corner in communities throughout the Low Country! It’s not too late for you to raise money to help give every baby a fighting chance! Register now at marchforbabies.org.

Funds raised for March for Babies will help fund programs in our communities to help moms have healthy pregnancies. You will also help fund vital research to end premature birth. We believe in a future where every baby will get a healthy start. That future is not possible without you!

The march is on. The time is now. Register today at marchforbabies.org and join us to celebrate and honor our babies!

The March of Dimes was involved in a multi-state collaborative meeting focused on improving birth outcomes. The meeting, held in Charleston, SC, was hosted by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. Main topics of the conference included Health Equity, Quality Improvement, Return on Investment, and Using Data to Drive Action.

The meeting highlighted March of Dimes focus on decreasing the burden of preterm birth on families throughout the nation. We are excited to see so many states and partners engaged in preventing preterm birth!

On March 14th, Governor Nikki Haley signed a law establishing a Maternal Mortality Review Committee in our state. Maternal mortality is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 1 year of the end of pregnancy from any cause related to the pregnancy. The rate of maternal death in South Carolina is higher than the national average. This is a major public health concern and has significant family, economic, and societal impact. Having a review committee promotes ongoing identification of opportunities for maternal mortality risk reduction.

In 1986, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiated a national Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System because more clinical information was needed to fill data gaps about causes of maternal deaths. Thanks to the support of the South Carolina State Legislature and Governor Nikki Haley, South Carolina will now be part of this active surveillance system!

Please get involved with March of Dimes advocacy initiatives such as this by joining our advocacy network. Visit www.marchofdimes.org/advocacy.
The Zika Virus and Pregnancy

The World Health Organization has stated the mosquito-spread Zika virus is a public health emergency. Pregnant women who are bitten are at risk for delivering babies with microcephaly, a disorder in which the head and brain are much smaller than normal.

What precautions can pregnant women take, and what should they do if they are at risk?

Visit marchofdimes.org for information and resources!

Call for Volunteer Leaders!

Are you looking for additional ways to get involved with March of Dimes? We have exciting opportunities to be engaged in the committees that drive the March of Dimes mission forward!

Maternal and Child Health Committee – Identify strategic initiatives, opportunities and program services to reduce the rate of preterm birth, birth defects and infant mortality in South Carolina.

Advocacy Committee – Impact policy change at the local, state and federal level through engagement with legislators, policy makers and stakeholders.

Communications Advisory Committee - Help develop and implement marketing communications plans to generate awareness for March for Babies, Signature Chefs Auction, Prematurity Awareness Month and the March of Dimes mission and brand.

For more details, contact Jacki Garbinsky, at JGarbinsky@marchofdimes.org.

Prematurity Campaign Roadmap

The March of Dimes has established an ambitious set of goals to reduce preterm birth rates in the U.S. to 8.1% by 2020 and 5.5% by 2030. If achieved, this will result in an estimated 1.3 million fewer babies born preterm and an associated savings of $67 billion in health and societal costs.

Roadmap Interventions

Seven interventions have been selected for the next phases of the campaign, based on the available evidence about their potential contribution to reducing the preterm birthrate.

- Reducing non-medically indicated (elective) deliveries
- Increasing use of progesterone for women with a history of prior preterm birth
- Reducing tobacco use among pregnant women
- Encouraging women to space pregnancies at least 18 months apart
- Increasing use of low-dose aspirin to prevent preeclampsia
- Advancing interventions for women diagnosed with a short cervix
- Reducing multiple births conceived through reproductive technology

Professional Development Opportunity

The March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign is pleased to provide funds (up to $2,000) in 2016 to support continuing education for perinatal providers focused on selected high priority prematurity prevention topics, consistent with the selected roadmap interventions.

If you are interested in applying for continuing education support, contact Breana Lipscomb, SC Director of Maternal Child Health Program Impact, at BLipscomb@marchofdimes.org.