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July 7, 2010

Audrey M. Yowell, PhD, MSSS
Health Resources and Services Administration
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
5600 Fishers Lane
18A-39
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Yowell:

I am writing to express my excitement for South Carolina's opportunity to be a part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Additional federal funding will afford multiple enhancements of key Maternal Child Health programs in our state. As the Director of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Bureau, I am responsible for the oversight of the Title V Funding received through the MCH Block grant for South Carolina. The collaboration of agencies that the ACA grant requires will enhance discussions to assure the monies are utilized in the most efficient way to meet the needs of mothers and children. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) is in full support of the application submitted by The Children's Trust of South Carolina for the Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (CDFA #93.505).

SCDHEC/MCH Bureau/Tile V agency has worked closely with The Children's Trust as an initial planning partner for the aforementioned grant and we remain committed to ongoing collaboration. SCDHEC will continue to assist The Children's Trust by sharing available data, providing information of current community based activities, and sharing information related to other resources that may be beneficial to the goals of the ACA grant.

I look forward to the opportunity for on-going collaboration with The Children's Trust in order for our state to see progress toward the goals and benchmarks required of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The success of this collaboration will facilitate recognition of the value of partnership and collaboration in order to attain shared goals toward improving maternal and child well-being.

Sincerely,

Brenda Y. Martin, RNC, MN, CNA
Director
SCDHEC-MCH Bureau/Title V