

Opening Doors



*A maternity
outreach program of
Community Action
Organization*



Opening Doors

was designed, through the collaborative efforts of key healthcare providers and insurers in the area, to address and

improve birth outcomes for at-risk women residing in Washington County.

To achieve positive birth outcomes, Opening Doors seeks out low-income pregnant women at risk of not receiving prenatal care; motivates them to seek care; and provides the needed information, referral and advocacy to enable them to do so. Services are provided by trained lay health workers who share similar life experiences with the women they serve.

Opening Doors' services began in January of 1995 in the southern portion of Washington County. Today services are available for low-income women county-wide, and are delivered in offices and clients' homes throughout the county. All services provided are offered in both Spanish and English by bi-lingual and/or bi-cultural Opening Doors staff.

Opening Doors serves approximately 400 expectant women each year. The clients served are at high risk of poor birth outcomes due to their psycho-social and economic issues, as well as system barriers, that can affect their ability to receive care.

Independent evaluation findings of the program illustrate that Opening Doors is making a difference in our community. In addition to the positive impact the program has made on meeting the medical and social support needs of clients and their infants, the program has also played an important role in supporting Washington County's diverse healthcare community to work together to serve this at-risk population.

"The Opening Doors project is specifically needed to seek out at-risk women, and provide them with specific, targeted information that will help them obtain early and consistent care."

—Lynne Weidel
Former Executive Director, Healthy Start

Services provided through Opening Doors

For clients:

- ❖ Grassroots outreach to locate clients in need
- ❖ Information, advocacy and referrals throughout pregnancy
- ❖ Education regarding the Oregon Health Plan and managed care systems
- ❖ Assistance with Oregon Health Plan eligibility determination and application
- ❖ Monthly support groups with childcare provided
- ❖ Assistance with linkages to other social service needs

For providers and insurers:

- ❖ Assistance in understanding and adapting to low-income client needs
- ❖ Educational programs for office and case management staff
- ❖ Individualized follow-up for clients who miss appointments or who have special needs
- ❖ Established network of support services

**Opening Doors is a program of
Community Action Organization,
made possible through the
collaboration of:**

CareOregon

HMO Oregon

Kaiser Foundation

Legacy Health System

Meridian Park Hospital Foundation

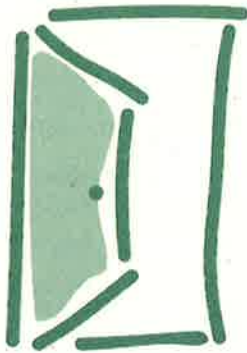
Providence/Health System

St. Vincent Hospital

Tuality Health Alliance

Tuality Healthcare

Opening Doors was established in 1995 by Healthy Start, Inc., and is dedicated to assuring that all underserved, low-income families in Washington County have the opportunity to receive comprehensive, high-quality, cost-effective and culturally sensitive services during pregnancy, delivery and infancy. Beginning July 1, 1998, we became a program of Community Action Organization.



Opening Doors

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