



DHHR Right from the Start partners with Keeping Babies Safe

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health Right from the Start Program has partnered with Keeping Babies Safe (KBS), a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in a groundbreaking program of education and service to obtain 340 safe cribs for qualifying families in the Mountain State. Funding for the project is provided by a grant.

KBS hopes to implement similar projects in other states across the country. “Our mission with Project Safe Crib is to educate organizations and parents about crib safety and safe sleeping practices and to place safe cribs in the homes of qualifying families,” states Keeping Babies Safe President, **Joyce Davis**.

About 340 West Virginia families will benefit from education, hands-on training and safety approved mattresses and cribs. Parents will receive information and training on infant health and safety. The result of the project will be lower infant mortality.

Jack Walsh, KBS/Project Safe Crib Director Emeritus said, “We are extremely pleased to work with West Virginia’s Right from the Start Program.” “We hope to make a substantial difference with Project Safe Crib,” Walsh added.

Governor Joe Manchin III said, “We are proud that West Virginia is at the forefront of this important project to keep babies safe. An investment in our children is an investment in our future.”

Keeping Babies Safe www.keepingbabiesafe.org is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides education and leadership in keeping babies safe from preventable injuries associated with unsafe cribs, sleep environments and dangerous infant products. KBS’ **Project Safe Crib** is designed to help parents from economically challenged environments obtain safe cribs through health and human service organizations around the country. Project Safe Crib trains health and human service organizations in safe crib practices and purchases safe cribs at an industry discount and offers them to these organizations for distribution to the public. The cribs are brought into homes by these trained professionals and set up to the highest safety standards.

West Virginia Right From The Start Project (RFTS) provides in-home care coordination services to high risk, low income pregnant women through the second postpartum month and Medicaid eligible high risk infants through one year of age. To learn more about the West Virginia RFTS Project or to reach a local contact in your area please visit www.wvdhhr.org

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