



### Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma

The Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma is a community program of Miller Children's Hospital at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. The Alliance's primary objectives include improving the quality and delivery of asthma health care, and reducing preventable hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and school absenteeism caused by asthma.

Established in 1999, the core programs of the Alliance include asthma care education seminars for physicians and medical assistants, and a home visitation program conducted by community health care workers. The Alliance also partners with schools, after-school programs, parks and recreational centers to increase asthma awareness and reduce conditions that contribute to asthma.

In addition, the Alliance has expanded its program to include educating community members on how to effectively participate in public forums discussing issues that adversely affect children's health. To date, more than 25 mothers of asthmatic children have attended training sessions on air pollution issues, public speaking, community organizing and leadership skills. These "asthma moms" have provided compelling testimony in forums ranging from neighborhood meetings to legislative hearings.

Four of these "asthma moms" have gone on to receive specialized technical training from researchers at the USC Keck School of Medicine. They now serve on "Neighborhood Assessment Teams" (called "A-Teams") that conduct traffic surveys and air quality monitoring. These A-Teams have already identified significant pollution problems near several elementary schools. They have also begun monitoring to establish baseline pollution levels near the proposed site of a rail yard expansion project.

The AQMD honors the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma for its outstanding educational efforts and strong advocacy for cleaner air.

