Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will celebrate National Women’s Health Week (NWHW) on May 9 -15, 2010, and its signature event, National Women’s Check-Up Day, on May 10, 2010. The week is a national effort led by an alliance of organizations to raise awareness about manageable steps that women can take to improve their health and helps underserved women gain access to important preventive health care services.

Last year, America celebrated the tenth NWHW and the sixth National Women’s Check-Up Day. In 2009, more than 60,000 people participated in almost 1,300 activities nationwide. Many underserved women and men were able to gain access to important preventive health services. During that week, The Office on Women’s Health also launched its fourth WOMAN Challenge (Women on the Move Across the Nation), an eight-week, physical activity challenge. NWHW was recognized by Congress with resolutions of support, and 143 mayors, governors, and tribal leaders issued proclamations. Media impressions exceeded 122 million with attention at the national, regional, State, and local levels.

In 2010, we want to increase the impact of NWHW by expanding the number of activities that occur during the month of May. Your organization is invited to participate. You could sponsor a display table, health fair, educational workshop, or fitness event or you could collaborate with a local health provider to offer health screenings such as blood pressure checks, pap tests, mammograms, diabetes tests, and HIV/AIDS tests.

Organizations that add their events to the online activity registry at www.womenshealth.gov/whw will be considered NWHW partners and are eligible for free promotional and educational materials to support their efforts while supplies last. The activity registry opens in March, and participation is free. You will find more information on registering your event and ordering materials for NWHW at www.womenshealth.gov/whw.

Your organization’s ability to engage hard-to-reach populations and your experience in health issues will be very important to our success. Thank you for your commitment to improving the health of women.

Sincerely,

Carmen R. Nazario
Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families