



Innovation Grant Will Help States Expand Access to Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services for Women

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The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has been awarded a federal grant to support state policy initiatives that address the growing need for health care services for women impacted by substance abuse and mental health disorders.

Promoting Innovation in State MCH Policymaking (PRISM) is a unique five-year project that will leverage AMCHP's national and state-level expertise to build the capacity of public health leaders to develop and implement state-level policy initiatives that improve access to substance abuse and mental health care for women.

AMCHP is working in partnership with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) as well as four other national care health associations whose members reflect the coordinated approach needed to advance effective policy solutions that increase access to care at the state level: The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, and CityMatCH.

AMCHP's \$2 million cooperative agreement, which runs from 2018-2023, was one of four awarded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

"Increased access to substance use and mental health care for women is a rapidly growing need in every part of the country," said AMCHP Board President Susan Chacon, director of New Mexico's Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program. "Working with our national partners, we can equip MCH leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to advance effective policy solutions that address the needs of this vulnerable MCH population."

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