



## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

### No Deal Yet on Debt Limit

As of press time, there appeared to be little progress in reaching agreement between the White House and Congress on how to address the rapidly approaching August 2 deadline to raise the federal debt limit. There has been little solid information on what potential cuts to health programs are on the table. AMCHP will continue to monitor and advocate that any cuts that fall disproportionately on public health programs will do more harm than good.

### HHS Releases Health Insurance Exchange Rules

On July 11, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published two proposed rules. The first outlines a framework to help states build health insurance exchanges and the second rule addresses standards related to reinsurance, risk corridors and risk adjustment to assure stability in the new markets. These rules are a key element of the federal health reform because they lay the ground work for health insurance marketplaces in all states. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about nine million people are expected to utilize exchanges in the first year growing to 23 million by 2018.

HHS is accepting public comment on the proposed rules during the next 75 days to learn from the public about how the rules can be improved. HHS intends to modify the proposals based on the public comments. AMCHP plans to provide a more detailed analysis in the next couple of weeks addressing the broad implications these proposed rules may have on maternal and child health programs and the populations they serve. To learn more about the proposed rules and for additional information, visit [here](#).

### Affordable Care Act Funding Awarded to School Based Health Centers

On July 14 the Department of Health and Human Services announced that \$95 million in grants will be awarded to 278 school based health centers throughout the country

to improve facilities and care to an additional 440,000 additional children. The awards are targeted for capital improvements to establish new sites or for the centers to upgrade their current facilities. The eligible applicants were school based health centers or a sponsored center. The applicants needed to address the need for the service and the facility conditions. Additionally, the applicants needed to develop a delivery plan and the impact the funding would have on serving additional children. To view the press release and to see the full list of the grantees, visit [here](#).



### Combating Autism Act Reauthorization Scheduled for Senate Committee Mark Up on July 20

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) has scheduled a mark up of its version of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act (S. 1094) on July 20. The House and Senate bills are identical, and would extend the law for three years at current funding levels. As a reminder, the AMCHP 2011 Policy Agenda includes a strong statement of support for reauthorizing the Combating Autism Act (CAA). Also, for those who are able and within your states' rules on advocacy – here is a [link](#) to an Action Alert by our colleagues at the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) that provides an opportunity to weigh in with your elected officials in favor of reauthorization.





## AMCHP Call for Volunteer Leaders!

### Long Term Volunteer Leadership Opportunities

- **Board Nominations:** AMCHP's Governance Committee is currently accepting nominations for 2012 AMCHP Board positions. These leadership positions guide, direct, inform and contribute to moving AMCHP's strategic directions and goals forward. The following are the open Board of Directors positions:

1. Secretary
2. Treasurer
3. Director at Large (3-year term)
4. Family Representative
5. Region IV
6. Region VIII

Volunteer leadership is critical to AMCHP's success. We hope that you will consider participating in the nominations process. More information about these positions, necessary qualifications and the nominations process may be found on the AMCHP website or by clicking [here](#). We ask that all nominations be forwarded to the Governance Committee by **August 31** to ensure ample time for the Committee to review all candidates' materials. Please note: Only named AMCHP delegates may be nominated to the Board. To verify your membership status, contact [Julio Arguello](#), Publications & Member Services Manager.

- **Committee Appointments:** One of the benefits of being an active AMCHP member is the opportunity to participate as a volunteer leader on AMCHP's Organizational and Board Committees. AMCHP committees assist the organization in carrying out its mission, goals and strategic plan. They serve to engage members in activities, provide advice and guidance to the Board and staff, and make recommendations for policy analysis and development. They are comprised of AMCHP members and staff liaisons, and may also include representatives from federal agencies and involve partner organizations when appropriate. AMCHP is currently seeking members who are interested

in volunteering to serve by being committee members.

All committee appointments are for one year. If you are currently serving on a committee and would like to be re-appointed or remain on your current committee please let us know. If you are interested in volunteering for a committee or switching your current committee assignment, please indicate below which committees you are interested in joining. All committee appointments will be reviewed by AMCHP staff and committee assignments will be made by the AMCHP President in September. The following are the open Board and Organizational Committee positions:

1. Adolescent Health Advisory Committee
2. Annual Conference Planning Committee
3. Best Practices Review Panel
4. Emerging Issues Committee
5. Family & Youth Leadership Committee
6. Finance Committee (Board position)
7. Governance Committee (Board position)
8. Legislative & Health Care Finance Committee
9. Workforce Development Committee

Please visit <http://www.amchp.org/committees> to review descriptions of the committees. If you have any questions about volunteering for AMCHP, would like clarification, or would like a staff person to contact you please let us know. In order to be appointed or re-appointed to a committee, please let us know you are interested by taking our survey [here](#) by **August 31**.

### Short Term Volunteer Leadership Opportunities

- **Social Media Task Force:** The Task Force will advise AMCHP on its implementation of social media strategies in coordination with current plans, including the AMCHP Strategic Plan, AMCHP Operational Plan, and AMCHP Communications Plan. The group will provide input to staff and the Board on how AMCHP can support state health agencies using social media in their work, and ways that AMCHP can leverage the use of social

media including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, and connect to other social media initiatives such as text4baby. Volunteers should have an interest in thinking about how to accomplish AMCHP's strategic goals using social media, and have experience using social media for professional purposes in their own agencies or with other organizations. The Task Force will prepare a report to the Board on its activities and recommendations for future AMCHP work in this area in time for the February 2012 AMCHP Board Meeting. To learn more, please complete this brief [survey](#).

- **Annual Conference Session Proposal**

**Reviewers Wanted:** AMCHP is seeking interested members to review the 2012 Annual Conference session proposals. Reviews will be conducted online and are tentatively scheduled to be done between September 6-20 (just following the Labor Day holiday). Reviewers will be assigned no more than 10 proposals to review, which should altogether take approximately two hours to complete. If you have routinely been contacted to review session proposals in the past and would like to continue, it is important that you indicate your interest on the [survey](#). We will create a new list of reviewers based on the response to this query. If you have any questions, please contact [Colleen Campbell](#).

### **2012 AMCHP Annual Conference Call for Session Proposals**

The 2012 AMCHP Annual Conference will take place February 11-14, 2012, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference theme is "Improving Maternal and Child Health Across the Life Span: Acting Today for Healthy Tomorrows." The AMCHP conference is the ideal venue to present your ideas, research, innovative programming, best practices and effective outreach strategies to MCH and other public health practitioners, directors of state programs, family leaders, researchers, federal officials, advocates and healthcare providers. Click [here](#) for complete information about submitting your proposal and for the online submission system. The deadline for session proposal submissions is August 22. You will be notified about the outcome of your submission by Friday, October 21. If you have questions about the

session proposal submission process, please contact [Colleen Campbell](#) or (703) 964-1240, ext. 16.

### **NASHP Webinar on How States Can Use the ACA to Achieve Health Equity**

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) will convene a webinar, "Advancing Health Equity through Health Reform Implementation," on July 21 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EST. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides states with policy levers to make lasting and comprehensive systems change to achieve health equity for racial and ethnic minorities. This webinar will feature presentations from national health equity experts on ways states can use the ACA to achieve health equity. Also, NASHP will announce its State Health Equity Learning Collaborative, an initiative to help state policymakers maintain momentum towards achieving health equity while implementing health care reform. To register, visit [here](#).

### **The National Health Care Transition Center to Host a Webinar on Transitions from Pediatric to Adult Health Care**

The webinar, "Paving the Way to Adult Health Care - The New Clinical Report on Health Care Transition," will convene on August 10 from 2 to 3 p.m. EST. The webinar will be based on a new clinical report published in the July 2011 issue of *Pediatrics*, describing what is needed for smooth transitions from pediatric to adult health care. To register for the webinar, visit [here](#).

## PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



### **General Maternal & Child Health**

#### **MCH Library Launches New Knowledge Path**

The knowledge path, "Emotional, Behavioral, and Mental Health Challenges in Children and Adolescents," produced by the MCH Library at Georgetown University, offers resources that analyze data, describe effective programs, and report on policy and research aimed at improving access to and quality of care for children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. To view the knowledge path, visit [here](#).

### **Adolescent Health**

#### **New Report on the Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood in the Medical Home**

The report, "Supporting the Health Care Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood in the Medical Home," published in the July issue of Pediatrics, provides practical, detailed guidance on how to plan and execute better health care transitions for all patients. The report is jointly authored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Physicians. To download the report, visit [here](#).

#### **The National Health Care Transition Center Launches New Website**

The site, [gottransition.org](http://gottransition.org), offers health care professionals, state policy makers, families and youth health care transition resources, particularly those pertaining to youth with special health care needs. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **Children's Health**

#### **New Tool Promotes Child Health Care**

The tool, "Let's Move Child Care Checklist," a component of the Let's Move Child Care, a website launched by the White House, in collaboration with Nemours and the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, offers recommendations for childhood obesity prevention in early care and education. The checklist is based on the Nutrition and Physical Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC), a research-tested intervention designed to enhance policies, practices, and environments in child care by improving the nutritional quality of food served, the amount and quality of physical activity, staff-child interactions, and facility nutrition and physical activity policies and practices and related environmental characteristics. To download the checklist, visit [here](#).

#### **Social Security Administration Reaches 100 Compassionate Allowances Conditions**

On July 14, Social Security Administration Commissioner Michael Astrue announced the addition of 12 new conditions to the Compassionate Allowances list of conditions. This addition brings the number of Compassionate Allowances conditions to 100, a number of

which are rare diseases affecting children. Compassionate Allowances (CAL) are "a way of quickly identifying diseases and other medical conditions that invariably qualify under the Listing of Impairments based on minimal objective medical information. Compassionate Allowances allow Social Security to quickly target the most obviously disabled individuals for allowances based on objective medical information that we can obtain quickly." For more information, visit [here](#).

## ON YOUR BEHALF

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### **AMCHP Working On Your Behalf**

- On June 30, AMCHP CEO Mike Fraser met with HRSA Administrator Dr. Mary Wakefield to share thoughts on the next Maternal and Child Health Bureau Associate Administrator. Summarizing feedback from the AMCHP Board, Mike shared AMCHP's suggestions that the next administrator have strong familiarity with state MCH and CYSHCN programs and the Title V MCH Services Block Grant, and continue to support a strong state-federal MCH partnership.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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### **AMCHP Social Media Intern**

The Social Media Intern is a member of the Organizational Performance Team and is accountable for the development and implementation of social media communications for AMCHP. The intern will assume responsibility for a wide range of projects and functions, requiring professionalism and task orientation. Responsibilities include researching and developing social media strategies for AMCHP (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.); ensuring that AMCHP's social media presence is consistent with AMCHP's Strategic Plan and Communications Plan and Operational Plan; providing content for AMCHP's website and newsletters; analyzing and providing reports on optimal communication methods; and other duties as assigned. This position reports to the Program Manager, Online Media & IT. This is a paid internship. For more information, contact [Adriana Houk](#) or visit [AMCHP's Career Center](#).



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

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### **AMCHP Program Manager, Adolescent Health**

This position serves as key support in developing, implementing and evaluating program activities related to adolescent health; assumes the lead for specific projects within AMCHP's adolescent health portfolio; and, partners with relevant agencies and other national organizations, coalitions and groups concerned with adolescent health to support AMCHP's efforts to build capacity and provide resources for state Maternal and Child Health programs. For more information, contact [Adriana Houk](#) or visit [AMCHP's Career Center](#).

### **Organizational Performance & Member Services Intern**

As a member of AMCHP's Organizational Performance and Member Services team, the intern will support our member services activities. The intern will assume responsibility for a wide range of projects and functions, requiring professionalism and task orientation. Responsibilities include working with the Member Services Manager on membership campaigns, including dues renewals and member retention programs; analyzing member assessment data and using those data to inform AMCHP's membership services; assisting in managing the AMCHP member database, including updating AMCHP member information; providing reports to AMCHP staff, including the CEO and Executive Committee, on membership statistics; supporting member services; tracking new and retiring members; coordinating the production of member welcome packets, including membership cards. And perform related work as assigned. This is a paid internship. For more information, contact [Adriana Houk](#) or visit [AMCHP's Career Center](#).

### **CDC's MCH EP Seeks Senior MCH Epidemiologists to Assign to State Public Health Agencies**

The Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program (MCH EP) is a collaborative effort between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program's mission is to promote effective public health action for improving the health and well-being of women, children and families by building MCH epidemiology and data capacity at the state, local and tribal levels. The mission is accomplished by developing MCH epidemiology leaders, promoting peer exchange among professionals

in the field, and providing training and education. The MCH EP has had a significant impact on building state, local, and tribal MCH capacity through the placement of MCH epidemiology leaders. The program provides direct assistance to public health agencies, to develop and promote the analytic capability of public health agencies and the MCH field.

CDC's MCH EP is recruiting doctoral level, senior MCH Epidemiologists/Health Scientists to assign to state public health agencies. Assignments are prioritized for states with limited MCH epidemiology capabilities. CDC epidemiologists are currently assigned to New Mexico (American Indian/Alaskan Native populations), CityMatCH, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, the U.S.-Mexico Border, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Several federal mechanisms exist for hiring/transferring a potential CDC employee assigned to a state public health agency. Salary is based on training and experience. This opportunity closes August 15. To learn more, please visit the CDC [website](#) or contact [Charlan Kroelinger, PhD](#).

### **AHRQ Announces Three New Job Openings**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has announced three new positions that will help to build the science of public reporting. The positions include the following:

- [Program Lead](#) to design evidence-based strategies in public reporting.
- [Program Analyst](#) to assist the Program Lead to improve the availability and quality of data used for public reporting.
- [Senior Program Analyst](#) to work with MONAHRQ, a new software tool that helps generate a health care reporting website.

AHRQ is particularly interested in candidates from diverse racial and ethnic minority groups. The application deadline is August 12. For more information, please contact [Ms. Geri Goins](#) or call (301) 427-1419.



## **Funding for ACA Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Formula Grant Program**

Deadline: **July 21**

This announcement solicits applications for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) formula grant program to continue the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) and the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) commitment to comprehensive family services, coordinated and comprehensive statewide home visiting programs, and effective implementation of high-quality evidence-based practices. The ACA MIECHV formula grant program is designed to: 1) strengthen and improve the programs and activities carried out under Title V; 2) improve coordination of services for at-risk communities; and 3) identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who reside in at-risk communities. The legislation reserves the majority of funding for one or more evidence-based home visiting models. In addition, the legislation supports continued innovation by allowing up to 25 percent of funding to support promising approaches that do not yet qualify as evidence-based models. To learn more, visit [here](#).

## **ACF-OFA Funding for Community-Centered Healthy Marriage and Relationship Grants**

Deadline: **July 28**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA) is announcing the solicitation of applications to competitively award cooperative agreements for demonstration projects that support "healthy marriage promotion activities" as enacted by The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-291). Cooperative agreements awarded under this Funding Opportunity Announcement will support programs that have the capacity and proven track record of providing a broad range of marriage and relationship education (MRE) and skills training to low-income populations. To address the multiple barriers faced by individuals, couples/partners, and families, projects will provide MRE skills designed to change behaviors of individuals and move families towards economic self-sufficiency. ACF is particularly interested in funding organizations that are located in the community of the targeted population, and that provide a broad array of services. To learn more, visit [here](#).

## **ACF-OFA Funding for Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Grants**

Deadline: **July 28**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Family Assistance (OFA) is announcing the solicitation of applications to award demonstration projects that support "...activities promoting responsible fatherhood" as enacted by the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-291). Grants awarded will support projects with organizations that have the capacity and proven track record of helping low-income fathers. Projects should be designed to develop a broad approach to overall case management and support services. Additionally, projects should be designed to help fathers build mutually supportive and long-lasting relationships with their children, the mothers of their children, and help fathers overcome barriers to economic self-sufficiency. To learn more, visit [here](#).

## **ACF Funding for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program: Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia**

Deadline: **August 8**

The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces that competing applications will be accepted for a new grant to establish Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIs). This cooperative agreement will fund 10 RPIs to serve as regional focal points to lead T/TA capacity-building activities. RPIs will coordinate activities designed to strengthen the ability of State Associations to leverage resources; promote and sustain relationships between State Associations and the corresponding State CSBG Lead Agencies; and increase the capacity of State Associations to address the broad T/TA needs of CSBG-eligible entities. The core functions of the RPIs are T/TA coordination and information dissemination. For purposes of this funding opportunity, the well-defined geographic areas will align with established ACF Regions. Regional coordinators will be physically located in the geographic area they propose to serve. Funding will be limited to one award per region. Within each region, a single State Association will serve as the grantee. To learn more, visit [here](#).

## FUNDING

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### **Funding for Prevention of HIV Transmission/ Acquisition through a better understanding of Reproductive Health (R01)**

Deadline: **August 11**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) issued by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), invites Research Project Grant (R01) applications to further the understanding of HIV acquisition/transmission by increasing the knowledge regarding the intersection between reproductive health and HIV prevention. The emphasis of the FOA is to encourage comprehensive behavioral-biomedical approaches that can lead to new insights in HIV prevention research. This FOA is not intended to fund drug discovery or large scale clinical trials. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **R40 Maternal and Child Health Research Program (MCHR)**

Deadline: **September 7**

R40 MCHR and R40 SDAS: The Maternal and Child Health Research Program will award grants to support applied research relating to maternal and child health services, which show promise of substantial contribution to the advancement of the current knowledge pool. Findings of this research should result in health and health services improvements in states and communities. Research proposals should address critical MCH questions such as public health systems and infrastructure, health disparities, quality of care, and promoting the health of MCH populations. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **Strategies for the Protection of Pregnant Women and Infants Against Infectious Diseases (R01)**

Deadline: **October 13**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to encourage new and innovative mechanistic studies of pathogens that impact placental function and fetal well- the long-term goal of informing the development of interventions against these pathogens and reducing the burden of infection-related pregnancy loss and infant morbidity and mortality. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **Funding for Advancing HIV Prevention through Transformative Behavioral and Social Science Research (R01)**

Deadline: **January 6, 2012**

This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) encourages applications that will advance generalize knowledge about HIV prevention through transformative behavioral and social science research. An underlying assumption for this funding opportunity is that methods of and findings from social and behavioral studies can make essential contributions to research that utilizes biomedical modalities. In addition, biomedical perspectives are essential for the advancement of social and behavioral HIV research on HIV prevention. Therefore, this FOA invites studies that are comprehensive in the sense that the reciprocal influences of relevant variables, whether social, behavioral, or biomedical are included in study design and interpretation. This FOA is intended to address the goals of the National HIV AIDS Strategy, and therefore studies should address issues that are highly relevant to the domestic (i.e., United States) HIV problem. To learn more, visit [here](#).



Do you have a successful program that has improved Women's Health outcomes in areas such as preventive care, maternal mortality, preconception health and more? Then consider sharing your program in [Innovation Station](#), AMCHP's searchable database of emerging, promising and best practices in maternal and child health. You'll have a chance to:

- Share successes with your peers
- Enhance the MCH field
- Contribute to program replication
- Get expert feedback from the Review Panel
- Receive national recognition

The online submission process is simple, and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, contact [Kate Howe](#) at (202) 266-3056 or visit [amchp.org/bestpractices](http://amchp.org/bestpractices).

# CALENDAR

## MCH Events

[25th Anniversary Postpartum Support International Conference](#)

September 14-17  
Seattle, WA

[NASHP 24th Annual State Health Policy Conference](#)

October 3-5  
Kansas City, MO

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting](#)

October 29-November 2  
Washington, DC

[Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine's 16th Annual International Meeting](#)

November 3-6  
Miami, FL

[2011 AUCD Conference](#)

November 6-9  
Crystal City, VA

[Joint Program in Survey Methodology Course: Designing Mixed-Mode Surveys](#)

November 10-11  
Arlington, VA

[17th Annual MCH Epidemiology Conference](#)

December 14-16  
New Orleans, LA

**Association of Maternal &  
Child Health Programs**  
2030 M Street, NW, Suite 350  
Washington DC 20036  
(202) 775-0436  
[www.amchp.org](http://www.amchp.org)

**Save the Date!**

February 11-14  
Washington, DC

## 2012 AMCHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Improving Maternal  
and Child  
Health Across  
the Life Span:

**ACTING  
TODAY**  
for **healthy  
TOMORROWS**

VISIT  
[www.amchp.org/conference](http://www.amchp.org/conference)  
to learn more.



### AMCHP's CAREER CENTER

The Career Center is the premiere online job board for individuals seeking employment in Maternal and Child Health programs. Whether you are looking for an entry-level position or are a more seasoned professional looking for new opportunities, AMCHP's Career Center has great openings for great people! Searching our database is free and open to all job-seekers. AMCHP members receive a discount on job-postings - so [sign up](#) today!