



MANAGEMENT MINUTE

A Crystal Ball... Or the Next Best Thing

By Michael R. Fraser, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, AMCHP

There are lots of reasons I wish I had a crystal ball and could see with certainty what the future holds. A crystal ball would really have come in handy at our board of directors meeting last week at which

the board reviewed and refreshed the 2009-2012 AMCHP Strategic Plan. Part of our discussion included looking at the current plan, thinking about the future, and assessing the trends that will impact state MCH programs in the coming year. The board focused on how AMCHP could position itself to address these trends, asking: Is our current Strategic Plan flexible enough to address emerging issues? What might have to change? Unfortunately, I don't have a crystal ball. Instead, we had to do the next best thing: forecast the future using feedback from a variety of members, partners and staff.

Certainly the future will hold many surprises but the trends we forecasted seem to be fairly consistent across all our different perspectives and stakeholders. The following is a short summary of the strategic issues we identified and some of the basic questions raised by each.

Budget Pressures: At the top of everyone's list of trends was the impact of continued state budget cuts and pressures on the federal government to trim its spending as well. How can we maintain and expand support for MCH programs in light of major pressures to trim, cut or eliminate government programs?

Implementing or Holding Out on Health Reform: While a number of states have begun to implement applicable provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), others have not. The continued challenge of implementing health reform given political and fiscal pressures in the states was forecast as an important issue. How can AMCHP best

support states given their varied capacity to implement ACA in their states?

Support for the Life Course Approach: While definitions of the life course approach varied among board members, as did the issue of whether or not it is a "new" trend or tried and true MCH practice, everyone agreed that it is a concept being widely cited in MCH and will continue to be prominent in the future. The real question for MCH practice that was raised is "How do we make this real to my health department?" (i.e., What are the operational pieces needed to organize a MCH program that implements the life course perspective to their practice?)

Integration of Chronic Disease Programs and MCH: The need to integrate and connect categorical work was mentioned several times at the meeting. New grant opportunities to address chronic disease at the state and local level were discussed, specifically the Community Transformation Grant program. Despite the push to integrate, many said that it is hard to do so in their current organizations. How can we truly leverage these new opportunities to bring MCH and chronic disease programs together at the state level? What best practices can AMCHP share to make this important connection happen more effectively in the states?

Family Involvement and Youth Engagement: The board spent a lot of time assessing current work to involve families in AMCHP, and discussed youth involvement within AMCHP and in state Title V programs. Of particular note was emerging engagement of youth through new funding for adolescent health. Some of the questions for AMCHP: How can we best support family involvement across the range of families served by MCH programs? What would youth involvement in AMCHP look like and how can we build capacity to support that?

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Workforce Changes: It was noted that there are staffing changes in our state agencies, and at our local and federal partners. A new cadre of MCH leaders is being developed, and agencies are being reorganized. What is AMCHP's role in promoting new leaders, getting emerging leaders involved in AMCHP while also retaining the expertise of our alumni? What will be needed by MCH leaders in the future and how can we support AMCHP members to meet these needs?

As you can see, our conversations raised a lot of questions! The board discussion was affirming of our current goals and strategies, and some minor changes were recommended to improve the Strategic Plan in the next year. As we look toward 2012, the next time we do a wholesale revision of our Strategic Plan, there is plenty to consider – and we'll need all your input and support to predict what the future holds for MCH. I look forward to working with the board, our members, partners and staff to continue to move AMCHP forward.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

All Eyes on Debt Limit Negotiations

AMCHP is closely monitoring the high level negotiations over increasing the national debt limit. An agreement to raise this limit – expected to occur prior to August 2 – will likely require significant spending cuts. Few details are emerging from the tense negotiations, but MCH and public health advocates are becoming increasingly worried about the potential impact on discretionary health programs and possibly Medicaid and CHIP funding. AMCHP continues to work in coalitions supporting a policy of balanced deficit reduction that does not disproportionately cut vital programs such as the Title V MCH Services Block Grant.

Meanwhile, mark up of a House Labor HHS Appropriations bill that could give a first glimpse of proposed Title V funding levels for FY 2012 is set for July 26.



LEGISLATIVE CORNER CONT.

Progress to Reauthorize the Combating Autism Act

The Senate bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act (S. 1094) now has 10 bipartisan cosponsors. A House companion bill (H.R. 2005) now has 13 bipartisan cosponsors. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee is currently scheduled to markup S. 1094 in mid-July, although the House Energy and Commerce Committee has not yet scheduled a markup. Colleagues at the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) have created a website with additional information and an action center for those who are able to contact members of Congress to educate them about the importance of reauthorizing this law. To view the bill text and action alert, visit AUCD's [website](#).

GET INVOLVED



Call for Session Proposals for the 2012 AMCHP Annual Conference

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 Monday, 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.

AMCHP and the text4baby State Enrollment Contest

AMCHP will be participating in the [text4baby State Enrollment Contest](#), a national competition to enroll pregnant women and new mothers in the text4baby program. The goal of the text4baby State Enrollment Contest is to reach twice as many users through healthy

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competition among states. The top three states that have enrolled the most users in text4baby between May 10 and October 20 will be announced at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The prize for each of the winning states will be a sponsored luncheon/press event for text4baby partners in that state.

Text4baby, the country's first free, health education program in the form of text messages, provides timely tips and expert advice sent directly to the cell phones of pregnant women and new moms. Pregnant women and new mothers who text "BABY" (or "BEBE" for Spanish) to 511411 receive weekly text messages, timed to their due date or their baby's birth date through the baby's first year. The messages, which have been developed by government and nonprofit health experts like the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and March of Dimes, deal with nutrition, immunization and birth defect prevention, among other topics. For more information, contact [Cristina Sciuto](#).

First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Child Care Initiative

The Let's Move! Child Care is one of the first lady's most recent additions to her Let's Move campaign. This new initiative creates a collaboration between Let's Move! and Healthy Kids, Healthy Future. The core of Let's Move! Child Care is a voluntary set of standards to engage child care providers in creating healthier environments for children. The standards relate to physical activity, nutrition, screen time and infant feeding that mirror the best practices Healthy Kids, Healthy Future has been promoting over the past two years. Child care providers who participate in, and achieve the goals laid out by the initiative, will receive some manner of recognition for their efforts. Let's Move! Child Care includes a web-based resource center with tools, training and technical assistance opportunities to support providers in their efforts to meet the voluntary standards. To learn more, visit [here](#).



Do you have a successful program that has improved Child Health outcomes in areas such as injury and violence prevention, school readiness, mental health, oral 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. If you are looking for examples of successful child health programs, be sure to check out the Innovation Station profiles on the [Alaska Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey \(CUBS\)](#) and [The Boys' Health Advocacy Program](#)!

For more information, contact [Kate Howe](#) at (202) 266-3056 or visit amchp.org/bestpractices.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



General Maternal & Child Health

AHRQ Launches New Page on Cultural and Linguistic Competence

The webpage, "Honing Cultural and Linguistic Competence," published by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Health Care Innovations Exchange site, features innovative programs and quality tools for improving cultural and linguistic competence as well as reducing health care disparities for vulnerable populations, including racial and ethnic minorities. To learn more, visit [here](#).

HHS Announces New Standards for Collecting and Reporting Data on Minority Communities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new draft standards for collecting and reporting data on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability status, and announced the administration's plans to begin collecting health data on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations. Both efforts aim to help researchers, policy makers, health providers and advocates to identify and address health disparities afflicting these communities. Under the plan, HHS will integrate questions on sexual orientation into national data collection efforts by 2013 and begin a process to collect information on gender identity. This plan includes the testing of questions on sexual orientation to potentially be incorporated into the National Health Interview Survey. The public may submit comments for the draft minority data collection standards [here](#) under docket number HHS-OMH-2011-0013. Public comments will be accepted until August 1. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Adolescent Health

GPR Issues Primer on Teen Pregnancy and Foster Care

The primer, "Teen Pregnancy Among Young Women in Foster Care," published by the Guttmacher Policy Review (GPR), addresses the unique needs and issues faced by pregnant teens in the foster care system. To download the primer, visit [here](#).

Children's Health

NASHP Releases Report on Improving Care Coordination and Service Linkages to Support Child Development

The report, "Improving Care Coordination and Service Linkages to Support Healthy Child Development: Early Lessons and Recommendations from a Five-State Consortium," published by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), summarizes early findings from the current Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD III) learning collaborative of five states. The five states: Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Oregon are testing models to strengthen linkages and

care coordination between pediatric primary care providers and community-based providers of early intervention, mental health, public health, and early care and education services. The states' early experiences are relevant for broad efforts to improve state policy, primary care practice, and population health. To download the report, visit [here](#).

New Survey Assesses State-Level Coordination of Child and Adolescent Services

The survey, "Ready by 21 State Policy Survey: Child and Youth Policy Coordinating Bodies in the U.S.," published by the Forum for Youth Investment in partnership with the RAND Corporation, describes findings from the first comprehensive biennial survey of leaders who work across agency lines to coordinate child and youth services, policies, funding and other resources to make those services as efficient and effective as possible. The contents of the executive summary include information on the prevalence of state coordinating bodies; the government agencies on the coordinating bodies and their non-governmental partners; the areas of child and youth development addressed and the data collected by coordinating bodies; and accomplishments of coordinating bodies in areas such as interagency planning and program improvement, leveraging resources, reducing duplication, and enacting policy. To download the executive summary, visit [here](#).

NHPF Releases New Brief on Evidence-Based MCH Home Visitation

The brief, "Home, but Not Alone: Evidence-Based Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation," published by the National Health Policy Forum (NHPF) at The George Washington University, provides an overview of the newly established Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program, describes existing approaches to home visitation, and discusses the implications of federal funding for state and local practices. To download the brief, visit [here](#).

KidsWell Launches Website that Monitors Health Care Reform Implementation

The site, KidsWellCampaign.org, monitors state and national health care reform implementation and opposition across the country. It focuses on health insurance coverage programs and provisions under the Affordable Care Act, including Medicaid, the Child Health Insurance Program,

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Health Benefit Exchanges, and health insurance regulatory reforms. The website was designed to support child health advocates, but also provides transparency and accountability on health care reform implementation more broadly, benefitting policy makers, researchers and the public. KidsWell has also produced an issue brief, “Health Care Reform in the States: A Snapshot,” which highlights the maps on the website and serves as a roll-up of the state and federal implementation and opposition activity. To download the brief, visit [here](#). To learn more, visit [here](#).

Women’s Health

Special Supplement Deals With Lessons Learned from H1N1

The June 2011 supplement to the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, “Emerging Issues in the Prevention, Detection, and Treatment of Influenza Among Pregnant Women in the United States,” summarizes some of what has been learned about influenza in pregnancy from the recent pandemic. The special issue includes a description of the timeline and activities of the CDC’s Maternal Health Desk during the pandemic and proceedings from a follow-up meeting of experts and partners to review what was learned during the pandemic about the impact on pregnant women and their newborn infants and to plan for future influenza seasonal epidemics and pandemics. The issue includes two reports that describe cohorts of pregnant women with 2009 H1N1 and a report that uses a population-based influenza-surveillance system to examine the clinical characteristics of pregnant and non-pregnant women during recent influenza seasons that preceded the pandemic, as well as during the 2009-2010 pandemic season. To download the supplement, visit [here](#).

ON YOUR BEHALF

AMCHP Staff Working On Your Behalf

- On June 19-20, AMCHP staff member Caroline Stampfel attended the 2011 Western Regional Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference in California. This two-day conference, sponsored by HRSA MCHB, CDC DRH and CityMatCH, provided opportunities for

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local, state and tribal MCH epidemiologists to learn about the latest and most compelling MCH research findings, network with their peers and participate in professional development.

- On June 21-22, AMCHP staff members Brent Ewig and Kate Howe attended the Alliance for Information on Maternal and Child Health (AIM) meeting in Washington, DC. The MCHB-funded AIM collaborative assists national membership organizations in making well-informed decisions affecting public health policies and programs for women, children and families. AIM grantees shared updates and information about their MCH initiatives and discussed areas for potential collaboration.
- On June 23-25, AMCHP staff member Joshua Brown attended the APHA Mid-year meeting, “Implementing Health Reform: A Public Health Approach” in Chicago, IL. This three-day conference offered the opportunity to learn in an interactive environment what the Affordable Care Act means for public health, wellness and prevention. It also equipped attendees from federal, state, local and tribal agencies and organizations with the tools needed for implementing the provisions of the Affordable Care Act and improving health outcomes in communities across the country.
- On June 25, AMCHP staff member Kate Howe attended a meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors (ASTPHND). ASTPHND convened the meeting with partners to discuss their members’ ability to work across agencies to strengthen the nutritional wellbeing of women, children and families. The meeting was in support of a recent [“Call to Action to Improve the Nutritional Wellbeing of Women, Children and Families”](#) initiated by ASTPHND’s MCH Nutrition Council.
- On June 29, AMCHP staff member Jessica Hawkins and the Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs (ASIP) hosted a webinar, “Infant Sleep Position and Bedsharing: Using PRAMS to Impact Programs and Policy.” The webinar featured Letitia Williams, MPH,

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Epidemiologist, PRAMS Project, CDC Division of Reproductive Health; and Danielle L. Broussard, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Chronic Disease Epidemiology Division of Clinical and Administrative Sciences Lead Chronic Disease Epidemiologist Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education at Xavier University of Louisiana. The webinar will be available [here](#) in the coming weeks.

- On June 29-30, AMCHP staff member Cristina Sciuto attended the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine's "Third Annual Summit on Breastfeeding: First Food, The Essential Role of Breastfeeding" in Washington, DC. The summit featured over 20 speakers that covered opportunities in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to help make breastfeeding the norm, best practices in state and local communities to increase rates of breastfeeding, the economic argument for breastfeeding and communications efforts around breastfeeding. The summit was high-energy and left participants with realistic next steps towards improving rates of breastfeeding in the United States.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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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 Chief Operating Officer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is seeking exceptional candidates for the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO). This position is located in the Office of the Director in Atlanta, GA. The selectee will report directly to the CDC Director, serving as a key management official responsible for the development of program systems that enhance CDC's mission and public health goals. The Chief Operating Officer coordinates internally with the Centers/Institutes/Offices (CIO's) to develop and implement strategies for increasing the efficiency and value of management systems throughout CDC/ATSDR and provides leadership in improving business, information management, human capital, and infrastructure systems. To learn more, visit [here](#).

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!



Department of Education Funding for Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children With Disabilities

Deadline: **July 11**

The purpose of the Technical Assistance and Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities program is to promote academic achievement and to improve results for children with disabilities by providing technical assistance (TA), supporting model demonstration projects, disseminating useful information, and implementing activities that are supported by scientifically based research. To learn more, visit [here](#).

HRSA Funding for School-Based Comprehensive Oral Health Services Grant Program

Deadline: **July 15**

The purpose of the MCHB School-Based Comprehensive Oral Health Services (SBCOHS) grant program is to demonstrate the successful integration of comprehensive oral health care into an existing SBHC, focused primarily on early childhood and elementary/middle-school aged children of greatest need to assure the delivery of quality oral health education and preventive and restorative services. By augmenting an existing school-based health care delivery system with culturally competent, comprehensive, quality oral health care and education, the funded MCHB SBCOHS projects will demonstrate effective ways to strengthen existing school-based health center capacity to respond to the oral health needs of young people and increase access to dental health education and services for underserved, high-risk populations, including children and youth enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To learn more, visit [here](#).

The Office of Public Health and Science Funding for FY11 Sustainable Comprehensive Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Clinical Program for Low Socio-economic Status (LSES) Women of Childbearing Age

Deadline: **July 15**

The purpose of this project is to implement and to evaluate the success of tobacco cessation and prevention programs in selected Federal Clinical Partners to address tobacco use among LSES women of childbearing age.

The Federal Clinical Partners are: the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and/or Indian Health Service (IHS) federally-funded healthcare clinics, and/or Medicaid-reimbursed providers. Successful applicants will design tobacco cessation and prevention programs to be implemented in the Federal Clinical Partners' organizations that: 1) Are based on Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence, Clinical Practice Guideline, 2008 Update (Public Health Service Guideline); 2) Employ implementation process steps that will ensure project sustainability after the grant period ends for the Federal Clinical Partners; 3) Ensure that a certified tobacco specialist uses the 5As (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, Arrange; see the Public Health Service Guideline for detailed information) with every patient; 4) Ensure LSES women of childbearing age identified as tobacco users are offered brief intervention, counseling, follow-up, and other cessation services listed in the Public Health Service Guideline; and 5) Demonstrate increased quit attempts, abstinence, and/or cessation for LSES women of childbearing age using the services of the Federal Clinical Partners. To learn more, visit [here](#).

CDC Funding for Craniofacial Malformations Information for Affected Families, Health Care Providers, and School Professionals

Deadline: **July 18**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to develop and disseminate information on strategies to increase access to health care services and eliminate any disparities in access to services and to develop and disseminate up-to-date educational materials on craniofacial malformations to affected families, relevant health care providers, and school professionals. This program addresses the Healthy People 2020 focus areas of Maternal, Infant, and Child Health, access to Health Services, and Oral Health. To learn more, visit [here](#).

ACF Funding for Early Head Start University Partnership Grants: Buffering Children from Toxic Stress

Deadline: **July 18**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces the Early Head Start University Partnership Grants: Buffering Children from Toxic Stress. These grants fund research activities to implement promising parenting interventions which augment ongoing Early Head Start services, in order to improve outcomes for the

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most vulnerable infants and toddlers. The purpose of this announcement is to report the availability of grant projects to promote knowledge of how Early Head Start programs can buffer children from the effects of toxic stress by supporting parenting/caregiving. Grantees will be required to demonstrate a partnership or partnerships with Early Head Start programs as an integral part of the research plan development and execution. To learn more, visit [here](#).

ACF Funding for Improving Service Delivery to Youth in the Child Welfare System

Deadline: **July 19**

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to develop and evaluate programs that promote the safety and well-being of children and families and that allow youth, where safe and appropriate, to return to families from which they have been removed, by building relationship skills to mitigate risk and to promote protective and resiliency factors in youth who have experienced trauma or abuse. Projects will target youth in the child welfare system, or those at risk of entering the child welfare system, including LGBTQ, pregnant and parenting teens, and other youth with significant risk factors. To learn more, visit [here](#).

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 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

Deadline: **August 8**

The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the

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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. To learn more, visit [here](#).

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](#).

Funding for 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](#).

CALENDAR



MCH Events

[UIC MCH - Leadership, Legacy, and Community: A Retreat to Advance Maternal and Child Health \(MCH\) Scholarship and Practice](#)

July 25-27

Oak Brook, IL

[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

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[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



Save the Date!

February 11-14
Washington, DC

2012 AMCHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Improving Maternal
and Child
Health Across
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TODAY**
for **healthy
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