



Fully Fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant at \$850 Million

ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

	FY 2008	FY 2009	President's FY 2010 Request	AMCHP's FY 2010 Request
MCH Block Grant (in millions)	\$666	\$662	\$662	\$850

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs calls on Congress to fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant at the fully authorized level of \$850 million for FY 2010.

The MCH Block Grant authorized by Title V of the Social Security Act is the only federal program of its kind devoted solely to improving the health of all women and children. Over the past six years, funding for the MCH Block Grant has been reduced significantly while the costs of providing health services has gone up. This reduced investment comes at a time when improvements in reducing infant mortality are stalled, low birth weight and



preterm births are increasing, and the U.S. ranks 29th internationally in infant mortality rates. Additionally, racial and ethnic disparities persist across several indicators, with the black infant mortality rate double the rate for whites.

Fully funding the MCH Block Grant will enable states to expand critical health care services to millions of pregnant women, infants and children, including those with special health care needs. In addition to direct services, the MCH Block Grant supports vital enabling and systems building services needed to promote optimal health.

AMCHP supports full funding of the MCH Block Grant to enable states to:

- Reduce infant mortality;
- Provide and enable access to comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care and improve the overall health of mothers and children;
- Ensure access to quality care and meeting transportation and translation needs;
- Increase the number of children receiving health assessments and follow-up diagnostic and treatment services;

- Provide and ensure access to preventive and rehabilitative services for children, including immunizations, screenings, nutrition and dental education and mental health services;
- Implement family-centered and community-based systems of coordinated care for children and youth with special health care needs, including assuring the provision of a medical home and transition to adulthood; and
- Partner with other agencies, schools and youth organizations to prevent behaviors that place youth at risk.



The MCH Block Grant improves the health of America's women and children by:

- **Supporting programs that work.** The MCH Block Grant earned the highest program rating by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)'s Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). OMB found that MCH Block Grant-funded programs helped to decrease the infant mortality rate, prevent disabling conditions, increase the number of children immunized, increase access to care for uninsured children, and improve the overall health of mothers and children. Reduced funding threatens the ability of these programs to carry on this work.
- **Addressing the growing needs of women, children and families.** As states face economic hardships and face limits on their Medicaid and SCHIP programs, more women and children seek care and services through MCH-funded programs. Resources are needed to reduce infant mortality, provide mental health care to those in need, improve oral health care, reach more children and youth with special health care needs, and reduce racial disparities in health care.
- **Supporting other federally funded programs such as community health centers, Healthy Start, WIC, autism, SCHIP and Medicaid.** The MCH Block Grant invests in needs assessments, planning and policy development, quality assurance and standards development, training, collection of health care data and analysis, and development of



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information systems that complement health care services and promote prevention for all populations.

Close coordination with other health programs assures that funding is maximized and services are not duplicated.

About the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant

The MCH Block Grant is the only federal program of its kind devoted solely to improving the health of all women and children. When Title V of the Social Security Act was passed in 1935, the Federal Government pledged its support of state efforts to extend and improve health and welfare services for mothers and children.

Full funding will allow state MCH and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Programs to continue to improve health outcomes by expanding the following types of services:

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PYRAMID OF HEALTH SERVICES



WHAT IS AMCHP?

For over 60 years, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs has worked to protect the health and well-being of all families, especially those who are low income or underserved. AMCHP represents state public health leaders, including high level state government officials, directors of maternal and child health (MCH) programs, directors of programs for children with special health care needs and adolescent health coordinators. Members of AMCHP also include academic, advocacy and community-based family health professionals, as well as families themselves.

The conceptual framework for the services of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant is envisioned as a pyramid with four tiers of services and levels of funding that provide comprehensive services for mothers and children. The pyramid also displays the uniqueness of the MCH Block Grant, which is the only Federal program that consistently provides services at all levels of the pyramid.

Reprinted from *Understanding Title V of the Social Security Act*, US Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Available at <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/titlevtoday/UnderstandingTitleV.pdf> (last accessed December 11, 2008)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, including state specific MCH profiles, contact AMCHP Policy and Government Affairs Team at 202-775-0436 or www.amchp.org.