



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMCHP Supports MCH and Emergency Public Health Resources in President's Budget

Feb. 9, 2016, Washington, DC - The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) today expressed strong support for several provisions included in the President's budget proposal that would strengthen maternal and child health programs and address emergent issues, specifically the sharp increase in prescription drug and heroin abuse that is having a devastating effect on families across the nation. We also strongly support the proposed resources to prepare and respond to the Zika virus. Additional details will be available in the following days and below are some initial highlights:

Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant – AMCHP is pleased that the President's budget proposal recognizes the need for sustained investment in our nation's foundational public health program for maternal and child health by proposing level funding of \$638 million for FY 2017. (A chart of all proposed HRSA funding is available on page 447 [here](#), with major CDC accounts beginning on page 455.) Title V MCH programs contributed to a 2.3 % decline in infant mortality rates in 2014, to a historic low of 5.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Over the past decade infant mortality rates have declined nearly 14%. Successful efforts are also underway to expand medical homes, particularly to children and youth with special health care needs, improve care coordination and assure appropriate transitions from pediatric to adult care. To accelerate this progress, address unacceptable racial and ethnic disparities, and reward programs that are generating proven results, [AMCHP is advocating that Congress fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at \\$650](#) million for FY 2017.

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) – AMCHP also strongly supports the President's proposal to expand the successful, evidence based home

visiting program authorized by section 511 of the Title V statute by ramping up funding from the current level of \$400 million per year to \$2.1 billion in 2027. MIECHV provides an essential foundation for a comprehensive early childhood system, and we appreciate the Administration's leadership to provide resources to help support additional families.

Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Use – Drug abuse is taking a heartbreaking toll on too many Americans and their families, while straining resources of law enforcement, treatment programs and the health system. AMCHP is particularly concerned about the devastating impact caused by misuse of opiates during pregnancy, which often results in a drug withdrawal syndrome in newborns called neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#), there was a five-fold increase in the proportion of babies born with NAS from 2000 to 2012, when an estimated 21,732 infants were born with NAS —equivalent to one baby suffering from opiate withdrawal born every 25 minutes. This Administration's proposed \$1.1 billion funding will boost efforts to help individuals with an opioid use disorder seek treatment, successfully complete treatment, and sustain recovery. We call on Congress to find common ground to address this epidemic and strengthen both prevention and treatment efforts. Additional details on this proposed funding are available [here](#).

Zika Virus – AMCHP strongly supports the Administration's proposed \$1.8 billion in emergency funding to enhance ongoing efforts to prepare for and respond to the Zika virus, a virus primarily spread by mosquitoes that has recently been linked to birth defects and other concerning health outcomes. We call upon Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to assure states and communities have the resources to take every appropriate measure to protect the American people and particularly women of reproductive age. Additional details on this proposed funding are available [here](#).