



## **Congress Announces Agreement on Appropriations - Increases for MCH!**

On Thursday Sept. 13, Congress announced a deal to move forward with an appropriations package that would include fiscal year 2019 funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, along with the Department of Defense. AMCHP is thrilled to share that the conference agreement includes significant increases for several maternal and child health priorities, including the following highlights:

### Health Resources and Services Administration

- Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant: \$677,700,000 (\$26 million increase, which is directed to Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS))
  - Of the \$26 million increase to the SPRANS portion of the Block Grant, the bill directs \$23 million for State Maternal Health Innovation Grants to establish demonstrations to implement evidence-based interventions to address critical gaps in maternity care service delivery and reduce maternal mortality.
  - \$3 million to expand implementation of the Alliance for the Innovation in Maternal Health Initiative's maternal safety bundles to all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, as well as tribal entities.
  - Funding for the portion of the Block Grant that is distributed by formula to states remains level, though new dedicated funding for maternal mortality initiatives should free up funding for other purposes.
  
- Autism and Other Developmental Disorders: \$50,599,000 (\$1.5 million increase))
- Heritable Disorders Program: \$16,383,000 (\$500,000 increase)
- Healthy Start: \$122,500,000 (\$12 million increase specifically to address maternal mortality)
- Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression: \$5,000,000 (level funding)
- Pediatric Mental Health Care Access: \$10,000,000 (level funding)
- Title X Family Planning: \$286,479,000 (level funding)

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- \$10 million directed to a new initiative, Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies, to support continued collaboration with state, tribal, territorial, and local health

departments to monitor mothers and babies impacted by Zika virus during pregnancy in highest risk jurisdictions. It also allows the CDC to pilot the Zika surveillance/registry system in additional jurisdictions to capture data on other emerging public health threats to mothers and babies, such as opioid use during pregnancy, natural disasters, and pandemic influenza.

More information about funding levels and report language contained in this bill can be found [here](#). The next step is for both the House and Senate to pass this bill in their respective chambers and send it to the president for his signature into law. We are optimistic that this will be accomplished before the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30. AMCHP staff will keep you posted as this happens and provide further detailed analysis on provisions of this bill at that time. In the meanwhile, thank you for all of your support to achieve these increased funding levels for important MCH programs and don't hesitate to contact AMCHP government affairs staff Amy Haddad ([ahaddad@amchp.org](mailto:ahaddad@amchp.org)) or Alyson Northrup ([anorthrup@amchp.org](mailto:anorthrup@amchp.org)) with further questions.