

Pennsylvania

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant 2019

The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, Title V of the Social Security Act, is the only federal program devoted to improving the health of all women, children and families. In FY2017, 86% of all pregnant women, 99% of infants, and 55% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service. To learn more about Title V, visit www.amchp.org.

MCH Block Grant Funds to Pennsylvania

FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
\$23,491,258	\$23,480,555	\$23,748,778

Title V Administrative Agency:
Bureau of Family Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health

*States must provide a three dollar match for every four Federal dollars allocated.

Protecting and Improving the Health of Pennsylvania's Families

Children and Youth with Special Health

Care Needs —The Bureau of Family Health continues to reach out to families of children with special health care needs through the PA Medical Home and Special Kids Network Programs. The PA Medical Home Program provides care to children and youth, including those with special health care needs, by utilizing the model “Educating Practices in Community Integrated Care (EPIC IC). The goal is to enhance the quality of life through effective community-based coordination, communication, and improved primary health care.

The Special Kids Network addresses families’ need for access to information and resources through three primary components: 1) a toll-free helpline; 2) in-home individualized service coordination; and 3) outreach through a network of Regional Coordinators, all of whom are parents of children/youth with special health care needs.

Pennsylvania’s commitment to improving the lives of women, children, and families requires the ability to effectively communicate with a diverse population. The Bureau of Family Health is developing a five-year plan to increase cultural and linguistic competence throughout its programs and stakeholder networks. Through Title V funding, the Bureau of Family Health supports a new program called the TBI Child and Adolescent School Re-entry Program. The School Re-entry Program, based on a best practice model called Brain STEPS, employed in seven other states, ensures that those who provide educational support to children with brain injury have a good understanding that will help students achieve optimal educational success. The Program includes training, consultation for teachers and other school personnel, accurate identification of brain injury, Individualized Educational Plan development and long-term monitoring of students with brain injury. The program also assists parents and families’ understanding of how brain injury impacts on the child’s ability to be successful in the classroom and in social settings with peers. Title V and other state funds support comprehensive specialty care clinics for certain conditions within hospitals across the state and supplemental activities such as psycho-social assessments, treatment planning and transportation being provided by community-based organizations.

Maternal and Infant Health Needs - Title V funds the breastfeeding awareness and support programs as well as safe sleep programs.

The BFH, with Title V funds, continues its work with local health departments to ensure screening among pregnant and postpartum women for risk factors related to behavioral health issues, substance use disorder and interpersonal violence. Birth spacing and birth control methods are also discussed.

Home visiting programs have achieved positive outcomes in reducing the incidence of low birth weight babies and repeat pregnancies. Ideally, home visitors connect with women in the prenatal period and continue to provide services for up to a year after the births of their children.

In 2018, a state Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) was created to address the serious issue of maternal mortality. The MMRC is charged with identifying pregnancy related deaths and recommending actions to prevent maternal deaths in Pennsylvania.

Newborn Screening – Title V and other funds support screening and follow-up for all newborns. Newborns are screened for 10 mandatory conditions, 27 supplemental conditions, critical congenital heart defects and hearing screening. In 2016, approximately 138,000 newborns were served. Collaborative efforts are targeted to hospitals, metabolic disease treatment centers, other specialty centers, a host of medical and allied health providers, laboratories, and others. The Newborn Screening Program uses a case management system (iCMS) to provide follow-up services for dried blood spot cases, critical congenital heart defects cases and hearing cases in one data system.

Child Health – Injury prevention is addressed through a variety of programs including the Child Death Review (CDR) and the Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) program promoting the safety and well-being of children by reducing preventable childhood fatalities. The Pennsylvania's Child Safety Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CS ColIN) work focuses on falls prevention. The Safe and Healthy Homes Program (SHHP) continues to provide guidance and interventions to reduce the risk of injuries and education to address safe and healthy homes. The BFH operates a toll-free Lead Information Line to provide information and resources on prevention, screening, abatement and regulatory issues on lead for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Adolescent Health – The BFH aims to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors among adolescents through evidence-based and evidence-informed mentoring programs to youth.

Several programs are funded through Title V to address bullying prevention. Within the CS ColIN, Pennsylvania focuses on reducing interpersonal violence through existing adolescent health programming.

There are Health Resources Centers (HRCs) operating in eight counties. HRCs provide a variety of services including sexual and reproductive health education, confidential, individual level counseling, screening for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and pregnancy testing; referrals and direct linkages to core family planning services; and distribution of safer sex materials to high school students.

Title V funds family planning councils to provide adolescents with reproductive health counseling services as well as the SafeTeens Answers! Text hotline. Other funds support programming on abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and three adult preparation subjects.

Training is provided on health disparities related to sexual orientation, gender identity and appropriate standards of care for LGBTQ individuals and LBGTQ cultural competency training to medical, behavioral

health and social service providers. Through various programming targeted towards LGBTQ in schools and the community, youth are offered screenings and assessments, mentoring, counseling, drop-in services, and suicide prevention training and awareness.

The Safe Spaces Project provides suicide prevention training to youth and engages in coalition building activities. The Signs of Suicide program provides screening and education and aims to prevent suicide attempts, increase knowledge about suicide and depression develop desirable attitudes towards suicide and depression, and increase help-seeking behavior among youth.

Cross-Cutting Systems – This work is focused on the development of public health services and systems solidifying the foundation and growth of all the programming work throughout the BFH as it is focused on building or enhancing workforce capacity especially related to data, implementing and maintaining continuous quality improvement processes, and strengthening systems and infrastructure to enhance program delivery and address key social determinants of health.

The BFH is addressing health disparities and health equity both internally, through workforce development initiatives, and externally, through the integration of health disparities language into grant agreements as part of work on the appropriate health and health related services priority. The BFH has also broadened these efforts to include health literacy work. Feedback through client satisfaction surveys is a requirement in all new grant agreements. This will allow grantees and the BFH to understand what is working and not working in the provision of services, including how grantees and the BFH communicate.

Workforce development activities will include training for BFH staff and grantees on topics related to program decision-making and implementation, such as public health problem solving concepts, data use, evidence-based practices and the use of quality improvement and program evaluation. BFH is dedicated to increasing data utilization, data analysis, and program evaluation for decision making across all programs.

Title V funds support the Child Death Review (CDR) teams, the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) registry, and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). Title V funds are used to supplement the provision of these monitoring systems and activities by supporting data collection activities and the implementation of prevention strategies based on findings from all three of these data sources.

Family and consumer partnerships (FCPs) are essential components of improving the health status of MCH populations over the life span. The BFH recognizes the value of FCPs and has established multiple means of incorporating families and consumers into the Title V decision-making process.

Percentage Served by the Pennsylvania MCH Program*

96.0%	Pregnant women
99.0%	Infants under one
56.0%	Children and adolescents
95.0%	Children with special health care needs
1.0%	Others

*2017 State/Jurisdiction Annual Reports Submitted to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

State Selected National Performance Measures

- Well Woman Visit
- Breastfeeding
- Safe Sleep
- Injury Hospitalization
- Bullying
- Adolescent Well-Visit
- Medical Home
- Smoking

Health Needs in Pennsylvania

The following are the current state MCH priorities as determined through the 2015 needs and capacity assessment.

- MCH populations reside in a safe and healthy living environment
- Appropriate health and health related services, screenings, and information are available to the MCH populations
- MCH populations are able to obtain, process, and understand basic health information needed to make health decisions
- Protective factors are established for adolescents and young adults prior to and during critical life stages
- Families are equipped with the education and resources he need to initiate and continue breastfeeding their infants
- Adolescents and women of child-bearing age have access to and participate in preconception and inter-conception health care and support
- Safe sleep practices are consistently implemented for all infants
- Title V staff and grantees identify, collect, and use relevant data to inform decision-making and evaluate population and programmatic needs
- Women receiving prenatal care or home visiting are screened for behavioral health and referred for assessment if warranted



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Children with Special Health Care Needs

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Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Harrisburg, PA

Hemophilia Treatment Centers

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia, PA

Strategic Approaches to Improving Access to Quality Healthcare for Children and Youth with Epilepsy (CYE)
EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
Pittsburgh, PA

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH)

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia, PA

MCH Research

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Hershey, PA

MCH Research

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Philadelphia, PA

Maternal and Child Health Public Health Training Program

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Philadelphia, PA

Thalassemia

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia, PA

Children's Healthy Weight Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN)

ASSOCIATION OF STATE & TERRITORIAL PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION DIRECTORS
Johnstown, PA