Alabama Maternal and Child Health Block Grant 2021

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 FY2019, 92.1% of all pregnant women, 98.0% of infants, and 59.6% 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 Alabama

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$11,264,929</td>
<td>$11,411,388</td>
<td>$11,401,820</td>
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Title V Administrative Agency:
Bureau of Family Health Services
Alabama Department of Public Health

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

Protecting and Improving the Health of Alabama’s Families

Health Care for Women and Children — By helping to pay for salaries, supplies, and equipment in county health departments (CHDs), Title V assists in providing physical assessments, immunizations, hearing screenings, nutritional assessments, developmental appraisals, and dental care for children, as well as preventive health care for women through the Well Woman Program.

Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) — Through 14 community-based offices, with the help of Title V funds, Children’s Rehabilitation Service (CRS) provides medical and evaluation clinic services to CYSHCN with an emphasis on care coordination. Care coordinators, including nurses and social workers, travel to their assigned counties to meet families, arrange services, and maintain working partnerships with local service programs and providers. CRS provides many other services including information and referral, therapy services and family/youth support.

Newborn Screening — The Alabama Newborn Screening Program (ANSP) is administered statewide by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), in partnership with public and private providers. The newborn screening includes bloodspot screens, hearing screens, and pulse oximetry screens to detect critical congenital heart defects. Also, CRS audiologists provide second-level screening and offer diagnostic and intervention services via evaluations, hearing aid dispensing, and hearing aid orientation. Newborn screening is offered through Alabama’s 46 birthing hospitals. The goal of ANSP is to identify certain genetic and congenital disorders early to reduce infant morbidity, death, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities.

Transition Planning for Youth with Special Needs — CRS promotes transition planning for youth with special health care needs and their families via care coordination and other activities. At ages 14-16, CRS youth are transferred to Social Work Transition Specialist caseloads for education and guidance in planning for all aspects of adulthood. Further, CRS offers Teen Transition Clinics statewide through five district office locations to address issues and problems such as adult healthcare, functional independence, mobility, and independent living. CRS is using strategies from the Six Core Elements of Health Care Transition 3.0 to improve the quality of its transition program. CRS is located in the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services which also serves adults through its Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. A continuum of services is encouraged through regular meetings and consistent communication between CRS transition social workers and VR counselors to ensure that appropriate accommodations are in place for educational and employment success.

State Perinatal Program — The State Perinatal Program (SPP) operates under the State Board of Health. The State Perinatal Advisory Committee (SPAC) advises the State Health Officer in the planning, organization, and implementation of the SPP. The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review and the Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) Programs identify and recommend strategies that will effectively decrease fetal, infant, and maternal morbidity and mortality to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. The FIMR and the MMR Programs consist of volunteer professionals from across the state who are involved in MCH related work. The SPP staff are located throughout the state and operate under Alabama’s Title V Program by engaging in outreach and education activities at the local, state, and national levels.
Care Coordination at County Health Departments (CHDs) — Care Coordination is provided to children that did not pass the Newborn Screening or Newborn Hearing Screen at birth as well as children with an elevated blood lead level. Care Coordinators work in conjunction with the families of the newborns and their providers to ensure repeat screening is conducted. Children with an elevated blood lead level are provided care coordination services to ensure repeat lead screenings are conducted, education on lead hazards, and assessments for the identification of the possible lead sources with referrals made to an environmentalist for verification of the lead source.

Percentage Served by the Alabama MCH Program*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>Infants under one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>Children and adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>Children with special health care needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>Others</td>
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* 2019 State/Jurisdiction Annual Reports Submitted to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

MCH Priority Needs in Alabama

- Lack of or inadequate access to comprehensive reproductive and well woman health care
- Lack of awareness of and trust in safe sleep recommendations
- Desire to maintain and strengthen regionalized perinatal care
- Low rates of preventive health and developmental screening for children
- Low rates of preventive health and developmental screening for adolescents
- Inadequate and insufficient health education and outreach pertaining to oral health
- Inadequate health and dental insurance for all Title V populations
- Lack of or inadequate access to health and related services, especially in rural areas and for services identified as difficult to obtain
- Increase family and youth involvement and participation in advisory groups, program development, policy making, and system-building activities
- Lack of inadequate supports for transition to all aspects of adulthood

Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)
ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Montgomery, AL

MCH Pipeline Training Program
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Montgomery, AL

Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH)
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham, AL

Pediatric Pulmonary Center
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham, AL

Education for MCH Leadership at UAB
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
Birmingham, AL

For more information, contact:

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