

## Ohio

### 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](http://www.amchp.org).

#### MCH Block Grant Funds to Ohio

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
\$21,917,021	\$22,104,518	\$20,085,885

**Title V Administrative Agency:**  
Ohio Department of Health

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

### Protecting and Improving the Health of Ohio's Families

**Ohio MCH Program** – The MCH Block Grant significantly supports state-level public health infrastructure and population-based services, often in conjunction with other funds (federal and state), collectively referred to as the MCH Program and administered by the Title V MCH Director within the Bureau of Maternal, Child, and Family Health (BMCFH). In addition to the over thirty-four programs supported by the MCH Block Grant, the Title V MCH Director also oversees Home Visiting, including MIECHV, Title X Reproductive Health and Wellness, and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Title V funding also supports programs outside of BMCFH addressing Lead Poisoning Prevention, Primary Care and Rural Health, and Violence and Injury Prevention.

**Health Equity** – The MCH program has formed a Health Equity Committee to develop a plan to advance health equity in MCH staff and through MCH programs. The goals are to select and implement health equity-increasing strategies in all state priority areas and institutionalize health equity in staff training, data, policy, grant, and contract administration.

**Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** – The Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH) serves as a safety-net for Ohio's children with special health care needs through systems building, service coordination, and payment for direct services when appropriate. Every newborn in Ohio is screened for 36 metabolic diseases as well as critical congenital heart disease and hearing loss and ODH ensures that all newborns receive appropriate diagnostic testing and intervention. MCH also conducts birth defects surveillance and sends automatic referrals for services. The Ohio Department of Health hired two full time, dedicated MCH Parent Consultants, who assist families with issues related to special health care needs, as well as assists with family/consumer engagement in all programs within MCH.

**Women and Maternal Health** – The MCH Program supports women through reproductive health and wellness and pre-and interconception care initiatives. The Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review program provides direction for maternal morbidity and mortality initiatives, including a statewide strategic plan to be developed and implemented through a statewide taskforce. New data collection efforts have been implemented and existing surveillance efforts have been modified to enhance the understanding of impact of COVID-19 on MCH populations.

**Infant Mortality** – The MCH Program works to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality by supporting the Ohio Equity Institute: Working to Achieve Equity in Birth Outcomes in nine targeted high-risk metro areas implementing data-driven, evidence-based interventions; increasing evidence-based home visiting; and additional efforts including safe sleep, prenatal smoking cessation, and fetal infant mortality review. Governor DeWine established the Eliminating Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force to develop a statewide shared vision and strategy for reducing infant mortality rates and eliminating disparities by 2030.

**Breastfeeding** – The MCH Program promotes and supports breastfeeding through statewide initiatives and partnerships aimed at increasing breastfeeding initiation and duration rates, improving continuity of care, and decreasing the disparity gaps. Efforts include the Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation Program, the Ohio First Steps for Healthy Babies hospital initiative, and worksites initiatives across the state to implement lactation accommodations/policies for breastfeeding employees. Focus groups were conducted with African American and Appalachian mothers to improve strategies aimed at increasing breastfeeding initiation and duration. A 24/7 breastfeeding hotline is also available to all Ohioans.

**Oral Health** – The MCH Program improves the oral health of children and families by supporting population-based prevention through public water fluoridation, school based dental sealants, funding public dental clinics, and partnerships to integrate oral health education. The Oral Health Program has started a new initiative focusing on integration within prenatal care.

**Early Childhood** – The MCH Program supports early childhood health by providing professional development, training, and technical assistance to increase health and safety and improve obesity prevention, as well as partnerships across programs to improve child well care and screenings, including developmental screening.

**School and Adolescent Health** – The MCH Program supports professional development, continuing education, and training to community health professionals working with adolescent youth and school nurses throughout Ohio’s schools. School Hearing and Vision Screenings assist in identifying children with hearing and vision loss. A partnership with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is working toward increasing adolescent well visits through education and training. The Ohio Adolescent Health Partnership, a diverse group of adolescent health experts, works to address the needed policies and practice changes to improve adolescent health.

## Percentage Served by the Ohio MCH Program\*

99.0%	Pregnant women
100.0%	Infants under one
71.0%	Children and adolescents
48.0%	Children with special health care needs
3.0%	Others

\*2019 State/Jurisdiction Annual Reports Submitted to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

## Health Needs in Ohio

- Decrease risk factors contributing to maternal morbidity
- Increase mental health support for women of reproductive age
- Decrease risk factors associated with preterm births
- Support healthy pregnancies and improve birth and infant outcomes
- Improve nutrition, physical activity, and overall wellness of children
- Increase developmental approaches and improve systems to reduce adolescent and young adult suicide rate
- Increase protective factors and improve systems to reduce risk factors associated with the prevalence of adolescent substance use
- Increase the prevalence of children with special health care needs receiving integrated physical, behavioral, developmental, and mental health services
- Prevent and mitigate the effects of adverse childhood experiences
- Improve health equity by addressing community and social conditions and reduce environmental hazards that impact infant and child health outcomes

## For more information, contact:

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## Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

### State Maternal Health Innovation Program

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Columbus, OH

### Awareness and Access to Care for Children and Youth with Epilepsy

CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION  
Cleveland, OH

### Maternal and Child Health Field-Initiated Research Program

RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT NATIONWIDE’S CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL  
Columbus, OH

### Ohio State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Columbus, OH

