Pennsylvania
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 Pennsylvania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$23,480,555</td>
<td>$23,748,778</td>
<td>$23,732,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 serve families of children with special health care needs (CSHCN) through various programs and initiatives. The Special Kids Network Helpline addresses families’ need for access to information and resources through a toll-free helpline. The Community to Home (C2H) Program addresses the needs of families residing in rural areas for access to information, resources and services through a home visiting program utilizing Community Health Workers in an evidence-based model targeting families with a newly diagnosed child or who have moved and need to identify services and supports in their new home area. The BrainSTEPs program provides individualized support services for students who have had a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) by preparing students and families for return to school post TBI and provide outreach to increase public awareness. The BFH provides Title V funds to Federally Qualified Health Centers, or FQHCs to develop, implement and share system improvement projects for CSHCN. Title V funds also support an Autism Diagnostic Clinic (ADC) which partners with early intervention services and early childhood providers to identify children between the ages of 18 months and three years who may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The ADC then uses a telehealth model utilizing specialists from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia to provide virtual testing and diagnosis. Families with a child identified with ASD are referred to appropriate services and given training in Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy to support the child until supportive services can begin.

The BFH has created a partnership with the Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL) to provide youth leadership institutes, parent advocacy trainings, fatherhood initiatives, and services for grandparents caring for CSHCN. The PEAL Center is Pennsylvania’s federally designated Family-to-Family Health Information Center.

State matching funds support comprehensive Specialty Care Programs (SCP) for individuals diagnosed with one of five conditions: Cooley’s Anemia, Cystic Fibrosis, Hemophilia, Sickle Cell, and Spina Bifida. The SCP focuses on improving patient health outcomes by providing comprehensive care and reducing barriers to adherence to treatment plans. Other state funds support outreach and education-based grants for individuals diagnosed with Epilepsy and Tourette Syndrome. The Technology Assisted Children’s Home Program is also provided through state funds and provides for the coordination of care for technology dependent children 0-22 years of age.

Maternal and Infant Health Needs — Ongoing work to ensure that women and mothers in PA have the support and services they need before, during and after pregnancy will include home visiting, group prenatal care through Centering Pregnancy, behavioral health screening and implementation of innovative preconception and interconception care models. In addition to increasing access and use of services that are protective and may decrease the likelihood of maternal morbidity and mortality, the BFH will also begin supporting new Title V strategies including implementing community-based maternal care models such as a doula program and a fourth trimester pilot program aimed at improving care in the postpartum period. The BFH will also begin using Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) recommendations to inform Title V programming and collaborate with other state and local agencies to ensure that funds are being leveraged to deliver non-duplicative services.

Strategies related to promoting breastfeeding awareness and reducing sleep-related sudden unexpected infant death will be implemented to prevent infant mortality and promote positive health outcomes among newborns. New strategies to address infant mortality will include support and referral for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome, efforts to build the capacity of Child Death Review (CDR) teams to review premature infant deaths and use of CDR recommendations to inform future programming.
**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 2019, 132,665 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** – Among children, in addition to enhancing the existing capacity of CDR teams, the BFH plans to address behavioral, mental and developmental health needs among children and to develop systems-level strategies addressing trauma. Existing programming around maintaining a home free of hazards will continue in an effort to drive improvement in the child injury and mortality rates. Title V will also continue to support CDR efforts aimed to reduce head injury and concussion among youth, and school growth screenings. Over the course of the new funding cycle, the BFH will seek to use CDR recommendations to inform future programming and develop strategies to complement and enhance existing programming on child injury prevention and trauma. The BFH operates a toll-free Lead Information Line to provide information and resources on prevention, screening, abatement and regulatory issues related to lead.

**Adolescent Health** – Strategies which help youth establish protective factors associated with positive mental, behavioral and developmental health outcomes will continue, including bullying prevention, mentoring, and male involvement and healthy relationship programming. Title V funds will also support reproductive health services, programming aimed to promote healthy relationships and services for LGBTQ youth in PA.

**Cross-Cutting Systems** – For the cross-cutting domain, the BFH continues to prioritize efforts to build staff capacity to analyze and use data from sources such as the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) and a new effort will be made to ensure that data from the CDR and the MMRC are reviewed and utilized to inform program design, planning and implementation. Additionally, a new strategy aims to continue to build knowledge and understanding of health equity in the BFH.

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants under one</td>
<td>98.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and adolescents</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with special health care needs</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

---

**Health Needs in Pennsylvania**

The following are the current state MCH priorities as determined through the 2020 needs and capacity assessment.

- Reduce or improve maternal morbidity and mortality, especially where there is inequity.
- Reduce rates of infant mortality (all causes), especially where there is inequity.
- Improve mental health, behavioral health and developmental outcomes for children and youth with and without special health care needs.
- Improve the percent of children and youth with special health care needs who receive care in a well-functioning system.
- Reduce rates of child mortality and injury, especially where there is inequity.
- Strengthen Title V staff’s capacity for data-driven and evidence-based decision making and program development.
- Support and effect change at the organizational and system level by supporting and promoting policies, programs and actions that advance health equity, address the social, environmental and economic determinants of health and deconstruct institutionalized systems of oppression.

---

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

**State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)**

**Pennsylvania State Department of Public Health and Human Services**

**Harrisburg, PA**

**Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program**

**KIDS SMILES, INC**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Hemophilia Treatment Centers**

**THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Philadelphia, PA**

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

**THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH)**

**THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Philadelphia, PA**

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

**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**University Park, PA**

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

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Maternal and Child Health Public Health Catalyst Program**

**THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Thalassemia**

**THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA**

**Philadelphia, PA**
For more information, contact:

**Maternal & Child Health**
Tara Trego  
Director  
Bureau of Family Health  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
625 Forster Street  
7th Floor East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: (717) 772-2762  
E-mail: ttrego@pa.gov

**Children with Special Health Care Needs**
Erin McCarty  
Director  
Division of Bureau Operations  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
625 Forster Street  
7th Floor East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: (717) 346-3000  
E-mail: erinccarty@pa.gov

**State Family or Youth Leader**
Cindy Dundas  
Director  
Division of Community Systems Development and Outreach  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
625 Forster Street  
7th Floor East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: (717) 772-2763  
E-mail: cdundas@pa.gov