Virginia
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 Virginia

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
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<td>$12,092,401</td>
<td>$12,128,653</td>
<td>$12,287,553</td>
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Title V Administrative Agency:
Office of Family Health, State Department of Health

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

Protecting and Improving the Health of Virginia’s Families

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs — Children and youth with special needs, one of the state’s most vulnerable populations, receive a large proportion of block grant funds. The Title V program assures and coordinates health services on an individual basis through its Care Connection for Children network, child development clinics, bleeding disorders program, and sickle cell centers. The Care Connection for Children program provides care coordination services, family-to-family support, and some financial assistance to children with special health care needs.

Family Health — Title V funds are allocated to Virginia’s 35 local health departments to address safe sleep, substance use cessation (including tobacco), unintended pregnancy, and access to care in their communities. Additionally, the Title V MCH program supports a variety of state and local efforts to promote medical and dental homes, access to family-centered care, prenatal education, and injury prevention.

Newborn Screening and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) — All infants are screened for 31 metabolic and genetic disorders (via dried blood spot testing), Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) and hearing loss. For disorders screening through dried blood spot testing, the program tracks and follows up on all critical and abnormal results, facilitates access to specialty services, and assures those infants who are diagnosed are referred to the Care Connection for Children Centers (CCC) for care coordination services. For infants who are diagnosed with CCHD, infants are also referred to CCCs for care coordination services. All newborns are screened for hearing loss before hospital discharge. The EHDI program tracks and follows up on abnormal results, assures access to audiologists for further testing, and maintains a hearing aid load bank. The EHDI program also implements targeted congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) screening on all infants who failed their initial hearing screen and ensures follow-up and relevant referrals for these infants. Infants diagnosed with hearing loss are referred to Virginia’s Early Intervention program, the Infant and Toddler Connection. The state also maintains the Virginia Congenital Anomalies Reporting and Education System (VaCARES), a registry of children under age two with birth defects.

Dental Health — Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood. The Dental Health Program aims to expand access to dental homes and oral health promotion programs for high-risk pregnant women, children, adolescents, and individuals with special health care needs (ISHCN). Statewide workforce development and training is provided to medical and dental professionals, lay health workers, case workers, teachers, caregivers, families, and individuals on providing oral health care for ISHCN. The Dental Health Program also provides oral assessments, education, and fluoride varnish applications to young children and ISHCN in nondental settings. Other activities include fostering regional alliances and implementing local initiatives to improve access to dental care for children and pregnant women; promoting medical and dental integration in safety-net settings; increasing public awareness and engagement around oral health by disseminating data, research, and promising practices; and educating adolescents on oral health including the impacts of vape and other similar products on oral health, and the correlation between HPV and oral health.

Injury and Violence Prevention — The Injury and Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) supports promising and best practice activities statewide that address leading or emerging injury issues at the population health level. Per the socioecological model, the IVPP aims to implement multi-level interventions (e.g. individual, relationship, community, societal) to increase the impact across the Commonwealth. IVPP will continue the dissemination of Project Patience, an initiative supporting statewide delivery of prenatal and postpartum education on child maltreatment and infant injury prevention. Project Patience is based upon the American Academy of Pediatrics and Bright Futures benchmarks and the toolkit focuses on providing technical assistance to maternity hospitals and community comprehensive maternity case management programs. The Low-Income Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program (LISSDEP) is designed to provide safety seats through a network of 154 dissemination sites statewide to families to remove financial barriers and increase access to safety devices and proper education for reducing motor vehicle related injuries. Reduction of suicide deaths is a continuing priority and the Suicide Prevention Program focuses its efforts to address youth suicide under this program have focused on training youth serving professionals and organizations to comprehensively screen for suicide risk and refer affected youth to immediate care.
Maternal and Child Fatality Review — The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner leads a collaborative, interagency effort to conduct maternal and child mortality reviews. Activities and findings under these review teams strategically align with the Governor’s goal of eliminating the racial disparities in maternal mortality by 2025.

Bright Futures — As the standard of pediatric health care in Virginia, Bright Futures is integrated into workforce development and training for providers as well as education for families. Title V staff support infrastructure-building services to promote the health of children from birth through adolescence. Efforts include providing technical assistance to providers and the public on delivering care in accordance with Bright Futures standards; identifying and disseminating resources, tools, and best practices to providers on emerging priority health topics; and supporting training for providers and families on medical home, transition, and supporting optimal child development.

Early Childhood Health — Early identification of developmental delays and social-emotional challenges is a critical priority. Core program components include training providers to support parents in completing Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ3 or ASQSE2) and identifying and promoting best practices for assuring families receive appropriate referrals for further assessment, specialized intervention, or ongoing monitoring. Title V staff also partner closely with MIECHV, Healthy Start, the Resource Mothers Program, and various interagency initiatives to prepare a workforce poised to seamlessly support health, development, learning, and school success.

School Health — Title V provides infrastructure-building services and workforce development opportunities to public, private, and parochial school-age health care providers. This includes surveying school health staff to identify needs and disseminate effective resources, tools, and best practices to providers on prioritized health topics. Title V staff develop and update the state’s school health guidelines, the state school entrance health form, and a state school-age health website. Staff collaborate with school-age health stakeholders to monitor the quality of school health services.

Adolescent Health — Virginia’s Adolescent Health Program aims to empower youth with the information, resources and access they need to make informed decisions about their health. Title V funds support the implementation of Get Real: Comprehensive Sexual Education That Works, an evidence-based, comprehensive, LGBTQ+ inclusive sex ed curriculum for middle and high school students. Title V funds also support implementation of AIM 4 Teen Moms (AIM4TM), an evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention program that uses a positive youth development framework, with pregnant and parenting teens. Title V funds are also used for the salaries of two part-time Youth Advisors, young people who provide their leadership and expertise on VDH’s public health initiatives and are in the process of developing a regional youth advisory structure for Virginia’s Title V programs.

Health Needs in Virginia

- Promote upstream and cross-sector strategic planning to eliminate health inequities
- Promote community, family and youth leadership to advance state and local MCH initiatives
- Promote mental health across MCH populations to include reducing suicide and substance use.
- Finances as a root cause: Increase the financial agency and well-being of MCH populations
- Racism: explore and eliminate drivers of structural and institutional racism within programs, policies, and practices to improve MCH.
- Promote reproductive justice and parenting support
- Strengthen systems of care for all children
- Decrease the maternal and infant mortality racial disparities that exist
- Maintain and expand access to oral health services across MCH populations

Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program
CHIP OF ROANOKE VALLEY
Roanoke, VA

Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program
PEOPLE, INC OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
Abingdon, VA

State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)
VIRGINIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Richmond, VA

Training CED/COR Pediatric and Child Psychiatry
RECTOR & VISITORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
Charlottesville, VA

Maternal and Child Health Public Health Training Program
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Ashburn, VA

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Percentage Served by the Virginia MCH Program*

100.0% Pregnant women
100.0% Infants under one
100.0% Children and adolescents
100.0% Children with special health care needs
49.0% Others

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

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