Puerto Rico

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant 2018

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. Title V provides funding to state maternal and child health (MCH) programs, which serve 69 million people in the U.S. To learn more about Title V, visit www.amchp.org.

MCH Block Grant Funds to Puerto Rico*

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<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
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<td>$13,109,284</td>
<td>$13,330,036</td>
<td>$15,643,430</td>
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Title V Administrative Agency:
Puerto Rico Department of Health
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division
Children with Special Medical Needs Division

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

Protecting and Improving the Health of Puerto Rico’s Families

Women/Maternal Health - MCAH centers attention to women in the pre-conceptive and inter-conceptive periods. The development of the Preventive Health Services Guidelines for Women of Reproductive Age and for Women during the Preconceptional, Prenatal and Post-Partum time periods (PHSG), will enhance their health status. The implementation of the Law # 186 regarding the establishment of the Maternal Mortality Epidemiologic Surveillance System (MMESS) and the Review Committee, the PRDOH Administrative Order Num. 366, requiring all birthing hospitals to incorporate the Hard Stop Policy, and the level of care assessment using the CDC LOCATE tool are strategies to decrease infant and maternal mortality and to ensure adequate services for the population. The Home Visiting Program (HVP) is the cornerstone of the MCAH and together with the Perinatal nurses and the Community Health Workers have been instrumental in the prevention of the Zika virus transmission campaign island wide, the promotion of preventive visits and supporting services to families through individual education, screenings, referrals and follow-ups.

Perinatal/Infant Health - Infant Mortality (IM) is a top priority for which MCAH will continue to focus its efforts on strategies to decrease premature, LBW and ZIKA virus infections. The PHSG, Hard Stop Policy, the multimedia campaign The Encounter of my Life, the CDC LOCATE initiative, the PR FIMR and the MMESS efforts are evidence based strategies to increases infant survival. The PR Breastfeeding Promotion Collaborative Group, the Baby Friendly Hospitals Initiative and the implementation of a National Plan for Obesity Prevention in PR with emphasis on promoting the initiation and prolongation of BF are also contributors to decreasing infant mortality.

Child Health - Improve children health and wellbeing includes decreasing morbidity due to chronic conditions, reducing unintentional injuries, and strengthening the socio-emotional development in the pediatric population. Promoting the children’s preventive care and the use of the PR Pediatric Preventive Health Care Services Guidelines (PPHCGS) and EPSDT, and providing the Responsible Parenting Courses (0-5 and 6-11 years) increases the opportunities for effective interventions to optimize well- child care: evaluation of development, nutritional habits, physical activities, immunization, injury prevention, reduction of forgotten baby syndrome, perform screenings and provide anticipatory guidance.

Adolescent Health - Youth participation and youth/adult alliances are MCAH’s main assets towards youth’s health/wellbeing and Positive Youth Development leads all initiatives. Youth Health Promoters Project empowers youths in public schools to adopt healthy behaviors and reach their full potential while promoting health and wellbeing. The first Youth Advisory Council (2016-18) include 16 youths with diverse capabilities/orientations from island wide. PRYAC gives advice on initiatives and public policies regarding adolescent health, carry out public education, and represent DOH within and outside PR. MCAH partnered with a HRSA-Funded Health Center to develop PR’s Youth Friendly Healthcare Services to promote healthy lifestyles and annual adolescent health visit. A mass media campaign on youth’s health/wellbeing and annual health visit was launched.

Cross-Cutting or Life Course - The MCAH Program will continue its efforts to promote oral health across populations and across life stages. The oral health efforts plan involves a two-prong action. One is information, education and rising consciousness of families, children, adolescents, pregnant
women and the general public about the risks, preventive oral hygiene, healthy oral habits, GHP coverage, preventive dentist visits and use of sealants. The Responsible Parenting Courses will continue to include oral care promotion. The PR PPHCSG recommends preventive dental visit twice a year for infants, children and adolescents. The HVP implemented an adapted version of the Infant Caries Risk Screening Questionnaire to all participant infants at 6 and 12 months of age families within and the Caries-risk Assessment Form for 0-3 Year Olds.
The second tier is to advocate for the inclusion of oral health care in the educational curriculum of dental care providers in training as well as into the continuous medical education for experienced dental health care providers.

People Reached by the Puerto Rico MCH Program*

39,792 Pregnant women
28,326 Infants under one
585,456 Children and adolescents
10,303 Children - special healthcare needs
1,337,628 Others
2,001,505 Total

*2016 State/Jurisdiction Annual Reports Submitted to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Priority Health Needs in Puerto Rico

- Improve Women of Reproductive Age’s (WRA) health and wellbeing, including emergent conditions like the Zika threat
- Improve birth outcomes.
- Decrease infant mortality.
- Improve children’s health and wellbeing.
- Improve adolescent’s health and wellbeing.
- Increase the number of CSHCN who receive regular ongoing comprehensive health care within a medical home.
- Increase the number of CSHCN aged 12 to 17 years who receive adequate support and services for their transition to adult health care.
- Decrease the age when children at risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) receive their first diagnostic evaluation.
- Implementation of health information technology to increase access to necessary health services, ensure consistent tracking and monitoring of CSHCN and improve CSHCN program data
- Reduce the prevalence at birth of neural tube defects.

State Selected National Performance Measures

- Well Woman Visit
- Risk-Appropriate Perinatal Care
- Breastfeeding
- Physical Activity
- Adolescent Well-Visit
- Medical Home
- Transition
- Preventive Dental Visit

For more information, contact:

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Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
San Juan, PR

Family-to-Family Health Information Centers
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
San Juan, PR

Family-to-Family Health Information Centers
PARENTS TRAINING PARENTS BY APNI INC
San Juan, PR

Zika Maternal and Child Health Services
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
San Juan, PR