INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE TITLE V MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs calls on Congress to fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant at $750 million for FY2022.

The MCH Block Grant, authorized by Title V of the Social Security Act, is the only federal program of its kind devoted solely to improving the health of all women and children in the United States. It is guided by the principles of evidence, flexibility, and results. In FY19, programs funded by the MCH Block Grant served 98% of infants, 92% of pregnant women, and 60% of children nationwide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY20</th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>FY22 (Request)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCH Block Grant (in millions)</td>
<td>$677.7</td>
<td>$687.7</td>
<td>$712.7</td>
<td>$750</td>
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Racial and ethnic inequities persist across several indicators, with Black infant mortality rates double the rates for white infants and the maternal mortality rate for black women being three to four times higher than the rate for white women. Title V programs work to address these inequities by increasing access to quality health care services and supports for women and children and facilitating health promotion efforts across the lifespan.

Examples of How States Are Using Title V to Respond to COVID-19

- Case investigations
- Contact tracing
- Public education about the pandemic
- Purchase of blood pressure cuffs for virtual monitoring of pregnant patients
- Virtual safe sleep classes and breastfeeding support
- Distributing safe sleep spaces without person-to-person contact

The Title V MCH Block Grant is well-positioned to address MCH needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, but needs additional funding to do so effectively.
Another key component of the MCH Block Grant is the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS). SPRANS funding complements and helps ensure the success of state Title V, Medicaid, and CHIP programs by driving innovation and building capacity to create integrated systems of care for women and children.

Examples of innovative projects funded through SPRANS include:

- The State Maternal Health Innovation program
- Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM)
- Guidelines for well-child care from infancy through adolescence
- Nutrition care during pregnancy and lactation
- Recommended standards for prenatal care
- Successful strategies for the prevention of childhood injuries.

The MCH Block grant improves the health of women and children by:

- Supporting evidence-based programs that work
- Providing flexibility to address emerging issues and state-specific MCH needs
- Supporting other federally-funded programs such as home visiting, community health centers, Healthy Start, WIC, autism initiatives, CHIP, and Medicaid.

For additional information, including state-specific MCH profiles, contact Amy Haddad, AMCHP Chief Government Affairs Officer, at (202) 266-3045 or ahaddad@amchp.org.

AMCHP’S ROLE

For over 70 years, the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has worked to protect and promote the health and well-being of all families, especially those who are low-income or underserved. AMCHP represents state public health leaders, including high-level state government officials, directors of maternal and child health programs, directors of programs for children with special health care needs, and adolescent health coordinators. Members of AMCHP also include academic, advocacy, and community-based family health professionals as well as families themselves.