

# SEQUESTRATION'S DEVASTATING CUTS TO MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS: CALIFORNIA

On January 2, 2013, federal agencies and programs that fund maternal and child health services and research will experience an across-the-board 8.2% cut under sequestration. These cuts will devastate the ability to deliver critical services to mothers and babies in need, disproportionately impact low-income and uninsured families, and deliver a major blow to local economies. Below is a snapshot of how California women, infants, children and families will be impacted.

## ACCESS

- **120,300 mothers and young children in California will be cut from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.** WIC provides nutrition and breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and improved healthcare and social service access for low and moderate-income women and children.
- **Over \$2.7 million could be cut from the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program in California,** which the state relies on to train its next generation of pediatric physicians.

## PREVENTION

- **Nearly \$3.4 million would be cut from the California Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant. This would result in 396,000 fewer women, children and families served in the state.** The MCH block grant supports a myriad of initiatives designed to promote optimal health, reduce disparities, combat infant mortality, prevent chronic conditions, and improve access to quality health care in the state. It currently serves 2.9 million individuals in the state.
- **Over \$564,000 would be cut from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, resulting in 2,000 fewer California women being screened for cancer.** Roughly 23,000 cases of breast cancer and 1,500 cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed every year in CA. This program – which helps low-income and uninsured women get access to cancer screenings – served over 106,000 women in CA over a 5-year period, catching over 470 cervical/pre-malignant cancers and 380 breast cancers.
- **Over \$1.77 million would be cut from the California Section 317 Immunization Program, resulting in 24,700 fewer children getting vaccinations.** This program targets uninsured and low-income children who may not otherwise have access to life-saving vaccinations.
- **California is 1 of 9 CDC-Funded National Birth Defects Prevention Study Centers --cuts from sequestration will eliminate 2 Centers and reduce activities at the remaining 7 Centers.** This year 1 out of every 33 babies will be born in California with birth defects. California tracks information concerning birth defects on over 180,000 annual births.



## RESEARCH

- **Over \$389 million in California research funding could be cut from the National Institutes of Health. Currently, about \$3.54 billion in NIH-funded awards goes to California, supporting research at 365 institutions.** These grants support local economies, contributing to over 91,600 jobs in biological sciences in California and over \$23 billion invested by venture capital firms into biomedical firms between 2004 and 2009.
- **Over \$10.5 million could be cut from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development – the NIH Institute that conducts a majority of the Nation's federally-funded maternal and child health research.** California is home to a main center and network site within the Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Network, a hallmark of NICHD which conducts research into the leading health challenges facing mothers and babies such as preterm birth, infectious disease, and maternal conditions such as gestational diabetes and preeclampsia.