



Sustain Funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant

AMCHP's Role

For over 60 years, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has worked to protect 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 (MCH) 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.

	FY13 (Post Sequestration)	FY14	President's Budget	AMCHP's FY15 Request
MCH Block Grant (in millions)	\$605	\$634	TBD	\$639

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs calls on Congress to fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant at \$639 million for FY2015.

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 all women and children. In 2012, 43 million individuals were served. Since FY2003 funding for the MCH Block Grant has decreased by \$124 million. This reduced investment comes at a time the United States ranks 27th internationally in infant mortality rates, and low birth weight and preterm births continue to be serious and costly. Additionally, racial and ethnic disparities persist across several indicators with black infant mortality rates double the rates for whites.

AMCHP supports sustained funding which will enable states to:

- Reduce infant mortality
- Improve the health of the population through prevention initiatives
- Help newly insured individuals access appropriate health care
- Improve state systems and infrastructure
- Continue to provide wrap-around supports, medical homes, and family-centered, community-based systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs
- Partner with other agencies, schools and youth organizations to prevent behaviors that place youth at risk



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ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

The MCH Block Grant Improves the health of America's women and children by:

- **Supporting programs that work:** An analysis by the Office of Management and Budget found that MCH block grant funded programs helped decrease infant mortality rates, prevent disabling conditions and increase access to care for uninsured children.
- **Addressing the growing needs of women children and families.** As our health care system undergoes a massive transformation the flexible nature of the MCH Block Grant will be invaluable resource for states to use to address the most pressing needs of MCH populations.
- **Supporting other federally funded programs such as community health centers, Healthy Start, WIC, autism CHIP and Medicaid.** The MCH Block Grant invests in needs assessments, planning and policy development, quality assurance and development of health promotion initiatives and information systems that complement health care services and promote prevention. Close coordination with other health programs assures that funding is maximized and services aren't duplicated.

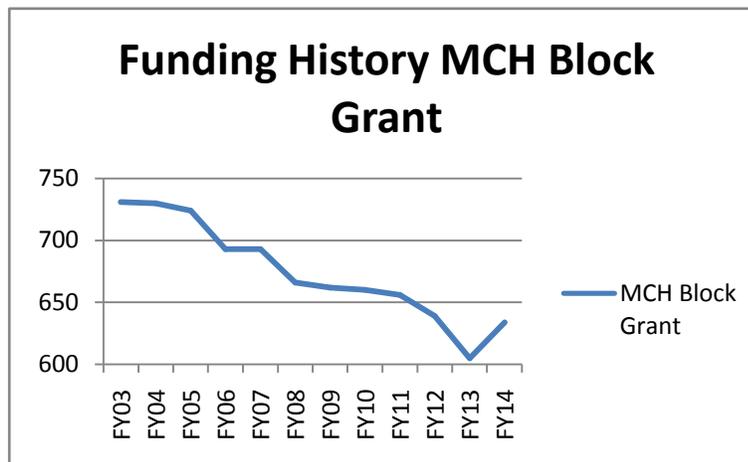


What is the impact of sequestration on the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant?

Sequestration cut the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant by \$32 million, bringing the level of funding for fiscal year 2013 down to \$606 million. This represents a \$124 million reduction since fiscal year 2003 dropping federal funding for this program to its lowest level since 1991.

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 driving innovation and building capacity to create integrated systems of care for

mothers and children. Examples of innovative projects funded through SPRANS include guidelines for child health supervision from infancy through adolescence (i.e. Bright Futures); nutrition care during pregnancy and lactation; recommended standards for prenatal care; successful strategies for the prevention of childhood injuries; and health safety standards for out of home childcare facilities.



Sequestration and budget cuts result in a **\$124 million or 17 percent** decrease in funding from \$730 million in FY03 to \$606 million in FY13.

Additional Information

For additional information, including state specific MCH profiles, contact the AMCHP Policy and Government Affairs Team at (202) 775-0436 or www.amchp.org.