Fact Sheet
The Affordable Care Act Navigator Program: Grant Opportunity

AMCHP’s Role

**AMCHP supports state maternal and child health (MCH) programs and provides national leadership on issues affecting women and children.** We work with partners at the national, state and local levels to expand medical homes, provide and promote family-centered, community-based, coordinated care for children with special health care needs and facilitate the development of community-based systems of services for children and their families.

**AMCHP’s National Center for Health Reform Implementation** provides state MCH leaders and their partners with the information, tools and resources to optimize the opportunities presented by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) for improving services, systems, and health outcomes for MCH populations.

Introduction

On April 15, 2015, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced availability of **three year funding** (FOA: CA-NAV-15-001; CFDA: 93.332 at grants.gov) to support Navigators in federally-facilitated and state-partnership marketplaces. Navigators are individual entities that will provide unbiased information to consumers about health insurance, the new health insurance marketplace, qualified health plans (QHP), and public programs including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires that health insurance marketplaces establish a navigator program. The purpose of the navigator program is to assist consumers in making choices about their health care options in the marketplace and other insurance affordability programs and to provide outreach and education.¹ These programs will vary by state depending on the format of the marketplace - if the federal government is running the marketplace, if the state leads, or if it is a federal-state partnership.

State Title V programs or their partner organizations in states utilizing a federally-facilitated and state-partnership marketplace may have the opportunity to apply for navigator program grants. State-based marketplaces can use ACA exchange funds to establish a similar program to assist consumers in their state.² MCH programs may want to explore those opportunities. Federally-facilitated and state-partnership marketplaces will receive funding for navigator grants from the federal government.

Title V programs have historically played an important role in outreach and enrollment for MCH populations, and this could be an important opportunity to continue this role in assuring that all women, children and their families have the necessary support to navigate the new health insurance coverage landscape when the marketplaces open in November 2015.
How Can MCH Leaders Get Involved?

As an MCH leader in your state, here are three steps to consider when helping to connect women, children and their families to health insurance coverage.

1) Find out if your Title V program is eligible for and will seek navigator funding.

2) Encourage state and local partners to apply for funding and consider potential partnerships with organizations such as Family to Family Information Centers, local health departments, community health centers, school-based health clinics, family planning clinics, WIC clinics, and programs that serve children and youth with special health care needs. Note that page 19 of the April 15 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages entities serving hard-to-reach or underserved populations to form a consortium and designate a lead agency, which might be a good fit for your state MCH program.

3) State Title V agencies could consider coordinating their required toll-free 800 numbers with the emerging marketplace call centers to assure seamless information dissemination and properly direct MCH populations to services. The ACA regulations that govern marketplaces require that they must “provide for operation of a toll-free call center that addresses the needs of consumers requesting assistance.” This is an opportunity for State Title V programs to coordinate with the marketplaces.

AMCHP will continue to follow the implementation of the ACA and provide our members with the tools and resources necessary to navigate the implementation of the ACA.
Sources and Selected Resources for Further Information

- **Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs.** Additional information covering key aspects of ACA that pertain to MCH populations is available at: [http://www.amchp.org/Policy-Advocacy/health-reform/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.amchp.org/Policy-Advocacy/health-reform/Pages/default.aspx)


- **Enroll America In Person Assistance** [http://www.enrollamerica.org/resources/in-person-assistance/](http://www.enrollamerica.org/resources/in-person-assistance/)


AMCHP Staff Contact Information

This fact sheet is part of a series of AMCHP tools, documents and resources on implementation of the ACA and its impact on maternal and child health populations. For more information, please visit the AMCHP website at: [amchp.org](http://amchp.org) and/or contact the AMCHP staff listed below. All AMCHP staff can be reached by phone at: (202) 775-0436.

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