

**FRIENDS of the TITLE V MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM**

c/o Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
1825 K Street NW Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-775-0436

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

As organizations dedicated to improving the health of all women, children, and families, we strongly urge you to support at least **\$750 million** for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant in the **FY2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations bill**.

The Title V MCH Block Grant is a cost-effective, accountable, and flexible funding source used to address the most critical, pressing, and unique needs of maternal and child health populations in each state, territory, and jurisdiction of the United States. While programming varies among states and territories, all of them are working to promote health equity and reduce disparities in access and care experienced most acutely by Black, Tribal, Indigenous and other people of color. According to data gathered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), ***92% of all pregnant women, 98% of infants, and 60% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service in FY2019.***

States and jurisdictions use the Title V MCH Block Grant to design and implement a wide range of statewide and community-level maternal and child health programs to fit the needs of their specific populations. These programs save federal and state governments money by ensuring that people receive preventive services to avoid more-costly chronic conditions later in life. Title V programs are at the forefront of addressing maternal mortality and morbidity, working to identify causes of pregnancy-associated deaths and severe complications, devising plans to address those causes, and implementing programs to prevent future deaths and near misses. Title V MCH Block Grant programs also work diligently to train the next generation of maternal and child health workforce leaders as well as address emerging issues and public health emergencies that impact maternal and child health.

During the past year, Title V-funded programs have been at the forefront of COVID-19 response efforts with a particular focus on addressing the unique impacts of the pandemic on maternal and child health populations. The flexible nature of the Title V MCH Block Grant has made it an easily deployable source of support for states to meet locally identified needs and foster positive maternal and child health outcomes

during the public health emergency. States have utilized Title V MCH Block Grant funding during the COVID-19 pandemic to operate hotlines, conduct case investigations and contact tracing, and support public education about the pandemic. Additional innovations in providing maternal and child health services during the COVID-19 pandemic have included purchasing blood pressure cuffs for virtual monitoring of pregnant patients; conducting virtual safe sleep classes; and distributing safe sleep spaces like portable cribs and other newborn essentials like diapers without person-to-person contact. The Title V MCH Block Grant is well-positioned to continue addressing maternal and child health needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the program needs additional funding to do so effectively.

Further gaps that can be filled via Title V programs include: supporting transition to telehealth services; ensuring equitable access to universal COVID-19 testing of pregnant patients; offering virtual childbirth, breastfeeding, and parenting classes; conducting communications campaigns around child abuse prevention and the importance of continuing routine maternal and childhood immunization; assuring timeliness of screening and follow-up for heritable disorders and newborn hearing; providing critical information to pregnant women, new mothers, and their families; and ensuring access to medication and equipment for children with special health care needs and respite care for their families, among other activities.

We thank you for funding the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$712.7 million in FY2021 and **urge you to provide an increase to at least \$750 million in FY2022 for both the state formula fund and discretionary portions of the block grant** to meet the increased demands being placed on the Block Grant. For additional information on MCH programs in your state, please contact Amy Haddad at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs at 202-266-3045 or ahaddad@amchp.org.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families  
Alliance for Black NICU Families  
America's Essential Hospitals  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Heart Association  
American Medical Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program  
Directors  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Society of America  
Black Mamas Matter Alliance  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Centro Pediatrico de Lactancia y Crianza  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
CityMatCH  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service,  
Inc. (COA)  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Equitable Maternal Health Coalition  
Every Mother Counts  
Family Voices  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
GLO Premies  
Guttmacher Institute  
HealthConnect One  
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Hyperemesis Education and Research (HER) Foundation  
Infant Nutrition Council of America  
Institute for Perinatal Quality Improvement  
International Stillbirth Alliance  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lamaze International  
Lifeline4Moms, University of Massachusetts Medical School  
March for Moms  
March of Dimes  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Mom Congress  
MomsRising  
NAPHSIS  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
NASTAD  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National WIC Association  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Parents as Teachers  
Patient Safety Movement Foundation  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Postpartum Support International  
Power to Decide  
PremieWorld, LLC  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevention Institute  
Restoring Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT)  
RESULTS  
Safe States Alliance  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Spina Bifida Association  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Joint Commission  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Shane Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
ZERO TO THREE