

Title V Block Grant: Maternal and Child Health

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Title V Block Grant?

The Title V Block Grant is also known as the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant. It is a grant from the federal government that provides approximately \$12 million to Louisiana to support programs to improve the health of women, children, adolescents, and families throughout Louisiana. In order to receive the grant, the state is also required to contribute “matching fund.” Louisiana provides an additional \$3 for every \$4 the federal government awards.

What does the MCH Title V Block Grant support in Louisiana?

The MCH Title V Block Grant supports programs and activities around the state to promote the health and well-being of women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, infants, children, teens and children, and youth with special health care needs. The MCH Title V grant in Louisiana funds health services, health education and promotion, monitoring and evaluation, professional training, and policy development.

Who can apply for the MCH Title V Block Grant?

Every state has a division in their health system that applies for this grant. In Louisiana, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) – Office of Public Health (OPH) – Bureau of Family Health (BFH) and the Children’s Special Health Services (CSHS) Program apply for the grant.

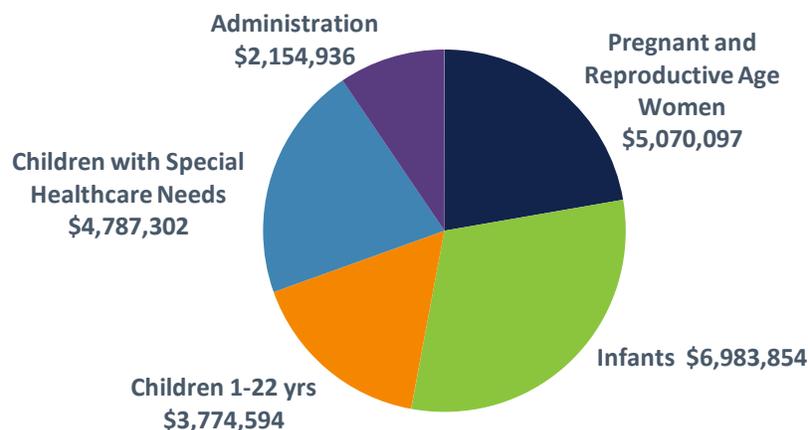
Why are the Maternal and Child Health Programs supported by Title V so important?

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal because their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system.

How can I share my ideas, comments and feedback?

Please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TitleV_LA with your input.

How were the 2013 Title V Block Grant funds used?



Louisiana's Top Ten Maternal and Child Health Needs

1. Decrease infant deaths through a reduction of premature births in the African American population.
2. Decrease intentional and unintentional injuries among pregnant women, children, adolescents, and children with special health care needs.
3. Improve the pre-pregnancy health and the health of mothers between pregnancies among Louisiana women.
4. Reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies and reduce pregnancies occurring less than 24 months apart.
5. Increase care coordination for children with special health care needs and their families.
6. Improve the nutritional health of the maternal and child population with a focus on obesity prevention and breastfeeding.
7. Assure that strategies and methods in MCH and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) programs are culturally competent to reduce racial disparities.
8. Improve dental health of MCH and CSHCN population by increasing access to preventive services and access to dental care.
9. Improve the mental health and decrease addictive disorders in the MCH and CSHCN population through prevention, early intervention, screening, referral, and treatment, where appropriate.
10. Increase preventive services for adolescents and transition services for youth with special health care needs (YSHCN).

What does the Title V Block Grant support in Louisiana?

Women's Health

Health Services

- *Clinical Services:* The OPH BFH Reproductive Health Program helps to ensure access to comprehensive reproductive health services to women, men and adolescents across the state. These services include: preventive health screenings such as obesity screening, cervical and breast cancer screening, sexually transmitted disease screening and treatment, as well a broad range of contraceptive services. Clinics provide extensive education and counseling to clients regarding the importance of healthcare before and between pregnancies. Most provision of prenatal services have shifted to community providers. The OPH Immunization Program also provides vaccinations to adolescent and adult females including HPV and Influenza.
- *Supportive Services:* The OPH BFH Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program provides maternal health, early childhood, and family development expertise in building Louisiana's early childhood systems of care. MIECHV implements evidence-based home visitation programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) statewide and Parents as Teachers (PAT) in the northern part of the state. The NFP model pairs registered nurses with first time, low incomes mothers before 28 weeks of pregnancy, and families receive ongoing intensive home visitation services until the child's 2nd birthday. PAT serves low income pregnant women, and families with young children in their home and through community group sessions. Specially trained PAT parent educators work with families, including the mother, fathers and caretakers, on topics related to child development, parent-child interaction and family well-being and health.
- *Behavioral Health:* OPH BFH also supports limited perinatal and infant mental health services, including assessment and treatment for perinatal depression, grief and loss, and crisis intervention for children and families who have experienced violence and trauma.

Health Education and Promotion

- *Partners for Healthy Babies:* A statewide, multi-media campaign and toll-free helpline provides information and referrals for medical and social services for pregnant women and families with young children – www.PartnersForHealthyBabies.org and 1-800-251-BABY. Social media on Facebook and Twitter @SammytheStork engages the audience on maternal and child health issues.
- *Abortion Alternatives:* OPH provides education and information about abortion and abortion alternatives through a help line and website – www.pregnancyinfo.la.gov.

Data to Support Action

- *Data Linkage and Analysis*: OPH BFH analyzes birth and death certificates and other data to assist program planning, evaluation, and policy development. Statistics and fact sheets can be accessed at www.PartnersForHealthyBabies.org/provider/data.
- *Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS)*: Louisiana PRAMS (LaPRAMS) collects state-specific, population based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during and shortly after pregnancy.
- *Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR)*: PAMR is a review of maternal deaths during or within one year of pregnancy to identify risk factors and prevention opportunities.

Coordination, Policy and Program Development

OPH programs provide leadership in promoting clinical practices and policies to advance or protect the health of children, both within and outside of DHH. Activities include:

- *Louisiana Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality*: This legislatively required, 16-member commission consists of doctors, nurses, healthcare administrators, a social worker, a nutritionist, and legislators. OPH BFH participates in the commission meetings providing programmatic updates and data to assist with the group's mandate to address the policies and systems of care for pregnant women and newborns.
- *Behavioral Health*: OPH BFH provides technical assistance and policy development support for expanded screening and treatment resources for drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and domestic violence. The BFH Director serves on the state's Behavioral Health Planning Council.
- *Prevention of Perinatal Transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B and Syphilis*: OPH reviews mother-to-child exposure and transmission cases to inform policy initiatives to prevent perinatally acquired infections. OPH BFH works with partner programs to identify opportunities to improve prevention and treatment.
- *Promoting Policies to Support Women's Health*: OPH works to ensure quality comprehensive reproductive health services are available for people who need them. OPH BFH works with the DHH Medicaid program to recommend policies and coverage options. BFH is also beginning to work with the Federally Qualified Health Centers to make sure they have information and training needed to provide high quality family planning services. OPH providers also serve as clinical preceptors for nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians during their women's health rotations.

Infants and Children, including Children with Special Health Care Needs

Health Services

- *General Clinical Services:* Some general and specialized pediatric services for children with special health care needs are supported through Parish Health Units (PHU) and contracted sites, mainly in areas with limited services. In addition, PHUs provide immunizations; referral for anemia, growth and development delays, and well visits; limited assessment services for emotional or behavioral health issues; and counseling for parents of newborns on newborn care, parenting skills, safety issues, etc.
- *Specialized Pediatric Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs:* The OPH CSHS program provides health care and care coordination for children with disabling conditions who meet medical and financial requirements. Subspecialty clinics include neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic, cardiology, ear nose throat, audiology, cleft lip and palate, spina bifida, urology, plastic surgery, and ophthalmology. The CSHS program also supports some private clinics for children with special needs to provide more comprehensive, coordinated care, including cystic fibrosis, diabetes, and NICU follow-up. In addition, CSHS helps medical homes (primary care clinics) where resident physicians are trained to provide more family-centered, coordinated care for children with special needs.
- *Supportive Services:* As described in Women’s Health above, the MIECHV program provides NFP statewide, and PAT to complement NFP in the northern regions of the state. The NFP model provides registered nurse home visiting to first time, low incomes mothers until their child’s 2nd birthday. PAT serves low income pregnant women, and families with young children in their home, and through community group sessions. Specially trained PAT parent educators work with families, including the mother, fathers and caretakers, on topics related to child development, parent-child interaction and family well-being and health.
- *Behavioral Health:* OPH BFH supports limited perinatal and infant mental health services, and crisis intervention for children and families who have experienced violence and trauma.

Health Education and Promotion

- *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Risk Reduction and Safe Sleep Program:* OPH BFH has a statewide community education program designed to reduce infant deaths due to SIDS and unsafe sleep environments by increasing public awareness about associated risk factors. The program includes a multi-media campaign, trainings on SIDS and infant sleep environment risks and risk reduction measures to hospital staff, child care providers, healthcare providers, and other professionals who work with infants.

Data to Support Action—General

- *Data Linkage and Analysis:* The OPH BFH and CSHS programs analyze birth and death certificates, and other data to inform program planning, evaluation, and policy development. Statistics and fact sheets can be accessed at www.PartnersForHealthyBabies.org/provider/data.
- *Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR):* FIMR is a statewide, community-based, action oriented process that assesses, monitors, and works to improve service systems and community supports. It is based on comprehensive medical record review.
- *Child Death Review:* One state panel and nine local panels review unexpected deaths of children under 15 years of age. Recommendations are made to the legislature and the local community for prevention activities and are implemented based on panel reviews.

Data to Support Action—Public Health Monitoring with Follow up

- *Newborn Genetics Screening:* This program helps ensure that children are screened for certain diseases at birth and receive follow up as needed. The screening panel includes: disorders of amino acid metabolism, disorders of fatty acid metabolism, disorders of organic acid metabolism, other metabolic disorders, endocrine disorders, hemoglobinopathies, and pulmonary disorders. For the list of conditions and disorders, please visit <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/485>.
- *Birth Defects Monitoring Surveillance:* This active monitoring program identifies children born with disabling medical conditions in order to help determine policies, educate the public, support community partners' efforts to link families to services, and prevent new occurrences. The program also helps to link families with appropriate medical, educational, and public health resources.
- *Louisiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (LA EHDI) Program:* This program collects screening, diagnostic, and early intervention data in order to ensure that hearing impaired children and their families receive quality services, to assess Louisiana's progress toward meeting national EHDI objectives and goals, and to ensure the validity of reportable information. In addition the project goals focus on the accurate exchange of data between LA EHDI-IS and other related child health agencies in order to reduce the loss to recommended follow-up services (screening, diagnosis, and intervention).
- *Perinatal Surveillance of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B:* Under the Louisiana Sanitary Code, perinatal exposure to these conditions is reportable to OPH. In addition, OPH conducts follow up with the woman while pregnant or after birth to help ensure appropriate testing and treatment. OPH BFH works with these partner programs to identify opportunities to improve prevention and treatment.
- *Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:* This program reviews and monitors the statewide lead screening results of all children aged 6 to 72 months. It also provides outreach and education to healthcare providers about the mandated lead screening rule in an effort to increase screening of children, especially in high-risk areas. Case management and environmental inspections are provided for children with elevated blood lead levels.

Professional Training

- *Infant Mental Health*: This 36 hour CEU program provides an overview of infant mental health, normal social and emotional development in infancy, infant behavior and cues, attachment theory and classifications, cultural and ethnic influences on parenting, psychopathology, assessment, and intervention. The course targets professionals who work with infants and their caregivers.
- *Training for Investigation of Child Deaths*: OPH BFH trains coroners, deaths scene investigators, and first responders in recommended death scene investigation procedures to consistently collect standardized information and accurately report findings of infants who die unexpectedly.
- *Health and Safety Training for Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC)*: CCHCs who complete this training are able to provide the 3 clock hours of health and safety training to child care center staff as required by child care licensing regulations.
- *Education of Healthcare Professionals*: OPH programs work with schools of nursing, medicine, and allied health professions and develop continuing education trainings for nurses and physicians around maternal and child health issues. Training topics include: care coordination and medical home model for primary care providers for children with special health care needs; community nursing; prevention of perinatally transmitted infectious diseases (HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B); nutrition; breastfeeding; screening for behavioral health and domestic violence; and promotion of the March of Dimes “Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait” campaign. The CSHS program also contracts with primary care physician offices, which are training sites for family physician and pediatric residents, to ensure that care is family-centered and coordinated. In the coming year, CSHS will begin to work with private pediatric practices to offer educational sessions on caring for children with special health care needs, including topics such as patient-centered medical home, care coordination, developmental screening and autism, and transition services for youth approaching adulthood. The Family Resource Center at Children’s Hospital has begun a series of habilitation conferences for hospital staff focusing on transition of youth with special health care needs to adult healthcare, work, and independence. Conferences are interdisciplinary and well attended.

Coordination, Policy and Program Development

OPH programs develop clinical and administrative policies to advance or protect the health of children, both within and outside of DHH. Activities include:

- *Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)*: DHH is part of the ECAC interagency leadership team charged with developing a coordinated early childhood system to provide young children (0-5) and their families with the best opportunities for optimal physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development.
- *Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood (MIECHV) Home Visiting*: OPH BFH has been administering the NFP home visiting model for over 15 years. The national attention on early childhood as an important time that affects development sensitive early childhood period on development, well-being, and

health has resulted in significant national investment in home visitation programs to improve child and family well-being. In late 2013, Louisiana began implementing the PAT home visiting model.

- *Breastfeeding:* OPH programs such as BFH and WIC work together to support breastfeeding friendly policies in hospitals, work places, and in childcare. BFH administrates *the Gift*, an evidence-based hospital designation program designed to increase breastfeeding rates and hospital success by improving the quality of maternity services and enhancing patient-centered care. BFH also supports the LA Breastfeeding Coalition.
- *Nutrition and Obesity Prevention:* OPH programs such as BFH, WIC, Nutrition Services and Health Promotion work to promote obesity prevention policy initiatives in childcare and schools. For young children, OPH BFH oversees the implementation of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program, a research-tested intervention designed to strengthen policies, practices, and environments in child care. The goal is to improve the nutritional quality of food served, the amount and quality of physical activity, staff-child interactions, and facility policy and practices related to nutrition and physical activity and environmental structures. OPH programs also participate in the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors (ASTPHND) and serve on the Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Council and the MCH Nutrition Council. OPH BFH and Nutrition Services staff chair the Louisiana Action for Healthy Kids that addresses childhood undernourishment, obesity, and prevention by working with schools to help kids learn to eat right and be active every day.
- *Children's Special Health Services:* CSHS works with medical schools, physician offices, other public health programs, and community organizations to make care more coordinated and family-centered. CSHS provides updated resource materials for practices and works with Families Helping Families to hold regular resource information workshops for staff who work with children with special health care needs and their families. Workshops help staff learn to refer more appropriately to other programs that serve these children and their families, resulting in more coordinated care.

Adolescents, including Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Health Services

- *CSHS Program Transition Services for Adolescents:* CSHS has a care coordination program specifically for youth with special health care needs, to assist with their transition to adult healthcare services, work, and independence. The program involves assessing needs for education, healthcare, work, and independence and developing a written care plan for youth (age 14 years and older) attending CSHS clinics.

Coordination, Policy and Program Development

Title V supports staff that coordinate with the following programs:

- *Reproductive Health Program:* The OPH Reproductive Health Program helps to inform and educate adolescents to encourage responsible decision-making and parental involvement, and helps to ensure access to reproductive healthcare. Activities include: providing client centered and confidential Family Planning services and providing quality services needed to avoid unintended pregnancies; engaging community partners in assuring the health of adolescents; removing barriers that would cause young people to avoid seeking services; promoting health and disease prevention with a focus on reducing risky behaviors; encouraging parents to vaccinate their children against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Meningitis, Flu, and Hepatitis. The Reproductive Health Program also engages adolescents to participate in the Family Planning Advisory Board to identify the needs of young people. Youth participants can also participate in the Teen Outreach Program that promotes positive lifestyle habits and community service.
- *Sexual Violence Prevention:* OPH BFH coordinates the CDC-funded sexual violence prevention initiative in the state. Program staff collaborates with the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (Louisiana's statewide sexual violence coalition) to plan prevention interventions for youth.

To provide feedback and comments on this document,
please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TitleV_LA to complete a short survey.

2013 Performance Measures

National Core Performance Measures	
% of newborns receiving follow-up services for genetic disorders	100
% of immunized children (age 0-2 years)	70***
Teen (age 15-17) birth rate (per 1,000)	17.2***
Rate of child (age 1-14) deaths due to motor vehicle crashes (per 100,000)	2.7***
% of mothers who breastfeed their infants at 6 months of age	31.2***
% of children without health insurance	3.5****
Rate of suicide deaths among youths aged 15-19 (per 1,000)	7.9***
% of children with special health care needs who have a medical home	40.4**
% of pregnant women who receive prenatal care in the first trimester	67.5***
% of children with a dental sealant on one or more of permanent molars	33.2*
% of mothers who smoke during the last 3 months of pregnancy	13.8*
% of children (age 2-5) on WIC that are overweight or obese	27***
% of teens with special healthcare needs who receive transition services	32.8***

*2011, **2012, ***2013

State Negotiated Performance Measures	
Difference in the percent of publically insured and percent of privately insured CYSHCN in Louisiana who need more care coordination services.	19.9**
Rate of children under 18 who have been abused or neglected (per 1,000)	8.5***
% of women who use alcohol during pregnancy	6.8*
% of African American women who most often lay their baby on his or her back to sleep.	30.5*

*2011, **2012, ***2013

Outcome Measures	
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)	7.9***
Ratio of the black to white infant mortality	2.2***
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000)	5.2***
Post-neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000) live births	5.8***
Perinatal mortality rate (per 1,000)	5.8***
Death rate of children aged 1-14 (per 100,000)	21.8***

*2011, **2012, ***2013

Health Status Indicators	
% of low birth weight (<2,500 grams) births	10.9***
% of single baby low birth weight (<2,500 grams) births	8.8***
% of very low birth weight (<1,500 grams) births	2.1***
% of single baby very low birth weight (<1,500 grams) births	1.6***
Rate of cases of chlamydia in women age 15-19 (per 1,000)	50.4**
Rate of cases of chlamydia in women age 20-44 (per 1,000)	15.85**
Number of children (age 0-18) enrolled in Medicaid	698,474
% of children (age 0-19) in TANF	1.4**+
Number of children (age 0-19) living in foster care	4787***
Number of children (age 0-19) enrolled in food stamps	409,954***
Number of children (age 0-19) enrolled in WIC	141,098**
% of high school dropouts (grades 9-12)	7**
% of children (age 0-19) below 100% of poverty level	26.6**

*2011, **2012, ***2013, +Only eligible until 18 years old so denominator is population 0-18