

Massachusetts

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant 2021

The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, Title V of the Social Security Act, is the only federal program devoted to improving the health of all women, children and families. In FY2019, 92.1% of all pregnant women, 98.0% of infants, and 59.6% of children nationwide benefitted from a Title V-supported service. To learn more about Title V, visit www.amchp.org.

MCH Block Grant Funds to Massachusetts

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
\$11,038,348	\$11,142,070	\$11,135,267

Title V Administrative Agency:

Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition
Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)

*States must provide a three dollar match for every four Federal dollars allocated.

Protecting and Improving the Health of Massachusetts' Families

Maternal and Infant Health — Title V provides technical assistance to statewide efforts to address maternal substance use and treatment of substance-exposed newborns. This includes providing home-based services and parenting support by peer recovery coaches to families affected by substance use, and supporting the development of Plans of Safe Care. Title V supports prenatal and postpartum home visiting programs for families experiencing high stress levels, including adolescent parents and those with unstable housing. Title V partners closely with the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and other state and community initiatives focused on improving family and child health outcomes and strengthening early childhood systems of care. Title V partnerships focus on promoting and supporting breastfeeding, and funds are dedicated to lactation training for medical professionals. Title V works to improve maternal health by conducting systematic reviews of pregnancy-associated deaths, supporting legislative efforts on postpartum depression screening and treatment, and working to eliminate racial inequities

in maternal and child health outcomes. Title V also supports women's health across the lifespan through clinical sexual and reproductive health services, contraceptive care, and preconception counseling.

Child and Adolescent Health — The Title V partnership supports hospitals, community health centers and local health departments operating school-based health centers, which function as satellite outpatient clinics located in school buildings. The partnership also funds comprehensive school health services that support the existing required baseline of school health services. The state has developed and implemented medication administration guidelines and policies for the management of allergic reactions. School health efforts also include BMI screening to support healthy weight, head injury regulations, mental health, and screening for substance misuse. Primary and secondary youth violence prevention programs are implemented using a positive youth development approach. MDPH administers adolescent sexuality education that uses evidenced-based models to support youth in strengthening decision-making, communication and advocacy skills. Population-based services include a poison control center, childhood lead poisoning screening and medical case management, child passenger safety, and child fatality reviews. Title V's partnership with the Massachusetts WIC Program has supported the piloting and statewide implementation of a developmental monitoring initiative for infants and children up to 5 years of age.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) — Title V provides care coordination, family support and other specialized services for families and children with special health needs, including pediatric palliative care. Families are offered multifaceted outreach and assistance to obtain benefits and services for which they are eligible. A system of regional services includes care coordination, information and referral, public benefits guidance, and parent-to parent matching services. Partnerships with internal programs, such as Early Intervention and School Health Services, and external state agencies, regional consultation programs, medical providers and community organizations provide comprehensive care to children with complex medical and technology needs. Two toll-free hotlines both provide information, technical assistance and resources for families with CYSHCN and providers serving these families. To support youth transition to adult health care, the Title V program offers information, resources, and support to families and to pediatric, adolescent, and adult medicine practices throughout the transition process. Title

V provides newborn hearing screening to 99.5% of all births in the state and develops and implements integrated data systems to ensure follow-up and identify inequities in care. Families participate in leadership development opportunities and serve in advisory capacities to Title V

Racial Equity – Promoting health and racial equity is a priority across all programs and population domains. The Title V program is committed to eliminating structural and institutional racism by equipping staff with the knowledge and skills to promote racial equity in their work. Training is offered to MDPH staff to develop a shared understanding of and support for a public health framework centered on racial equity and to increase staff capacity to address racism in the development, implementation, and evaluation of their programs, policies, and practices. Title V aims to strengthen the core elements of its work – including program planning, policy development, data collection, budgeting, and procurement – to meaningfully address structural and institutional racism. In response to an identified gap in Title V programming, MDPH staff developed the [Racial Equity Data Road Map](#), to lift up data as a tool to eliminating structural racism. The Road Map provides suggested methodology to assess progress in addressing racial inequities in service delivery and health outcomes.

Data Systems and Analyses — The Division of Maternal and Child Health Research and Analysis (DMCHRA) provides statistical information for needs assessments, performance management, and decision support to Title V using data analytics, survey work, and program evaluation studies. DMCHRA oversees the development and implementation of surveillance activities and dissemination of results to support decision making for MCH programs and policies. DMCHRA directs several major MCH data projects including the Pregnancy to Early Life Longitudinal (PELL) data system, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), the State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) program, and the Massachusetts Perinatal Neonatal Quality Improvement Network, the Massachusetts statewide Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

Health Priorities in Massachusetts

- Eliminate institutional and structural racism in internal DPH programs, policies, and practices to improve maternal and child health
- Eliminate health inequities caused by unjust social, economic, and environmental systems, policies and practices
- Support equitable healing centered systems and approaches to mitigating the effects of trauma, including racial, historical, structural, community, family and childhood trauma
- Prevent the use of substances, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and opioids among youth and pregnant women

- Strengthen the capacity of the health system to promote mental health and emotional well-being
- Foster healthy nutrition and physical activity through equitable systems and policy improvement
- Promote equitable access to sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services
- Reduce rates of and eliminate inequities in maternal morbidity and mortality
- Support effective health-related transitions to adulthood for adolescents with special health needs
- Engage families, fathers, and youth with diverse life experiences through shared power and leadership to improve maternal and child health services

Percentage Served by the Massachusetts MCH Program*

The MCH Block Grant provided direct, enabling, and population-based services to the following individuals:

100.0%	pregnant women
99.0%	infants under one
67.0%	children and adolescents
67.0%	children with special health care needs
2.0%	others

*2019 State/Jurisdiction Annual Report Submitted to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau

For more information, contact:

Title V Director

Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA
 Director, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 250 Washington Street, 5th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108-4619
 Phone: (860) 857-6748
 E-mail: elaine.i.fitzgeraldlewis@mass.gov

Maternal & Child Health

Karin Downs, RN, MPH
 Director, Division of Pregnancy, Infancy and Early Childhood
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 250 Washington Street, 5th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108-4619
 Phone: (617) 519-6622
 E-mail: Karin.downs2@mass.gov

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Elaine Gabovitch
 Director, Division for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 250 Washington Street, 5th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108-4619
 Phone: (617) 944-9815
 E-mail: elaine.gabovitch@mass.gov

State Family or Youth Leader

Suzanne Gottlieb
Director, Office of Family Initiatives
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108-4619
Phone: (617) 624-5979
E-mail: suzanne.gottlieb@mass.gov

Current Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS)

Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CORPORATION
Boston, MA

State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI) For MA

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH
Boston, MA

**Awareness and Access to Care for Children and
Youth with Epilepsy**

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
Boston, MA

MCH Research

THE BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, INC
Boston, MA

MCH Research

TRUSTEES OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Boston, MA

MCH Research

THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
Boston, MA

MCH Research

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Waltham, MA

Training CED/COR Pediatric and Child Psychiatry

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION
Boston, MA

Training CED/COR Pediatric and Child Psychiatry

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CORPORATION
Boston, MA

Adolescent Health Training Program

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CORPORATION
Boston, MA

Maternal & Child Health Public Health Training Grant

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Boston, MA

MCPH Leadership Education Program at BUSPH

TRUSTEES OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Boston, MA

**Child and Adolescent Injury and Violence Prevention
Resource Centers Cooperative Agreement**

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC
Waltham, MA

**Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and
Innovation Network**

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC
Waltham, MA

Supporting Healthy Start Performance Project

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH
QUALITY, INC
Boston, MA

Safe Infant Sleep Systems Integration Program

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH
QUALITY, INC
Boston, MA

**Support for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
Prevention, Identification, and Intervention**

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
Boston, MA

