



## AMCHP 2021 Federal Policy Agenda

*AMCHP acknowledges that racism is a public health crisis that directly impacts the health outcomes of our communities and those we serve. All policies we support must be evaluated through the lens of dismantling racism and pursuing health equity and racial equity.*

### AMCHP will play a leadership role to:

- **Fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant** at \$750 million for FY2022 to improve the health of all women, children, and families, including those with special health care needs, and to strengthen state and national system capacity to assess and address the health needs of MCH populations.
- Prioritize maternal and child health populations, especially those who have been most greatly impacted such as communities of color, in the context of **COVID-19** and planning for and responding to other **public health emergencies**.
- Advance policies to improve infant and maternal health, including policies designed to **reduce infant and maternal mortality and morbidity** and eliminate racial and ethnic inequities.
- Reauthorize the **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)** Program.

### AMCHP will play a partnership role to:

- Support efforts to **address the unmet mental health needs** of pregnant and parenting people, children, and adolescents through increasing access to the full spectrum of integrated behavioral health services.
- **Prevent the use of harmful substances** (including opioids, methamphetamines, marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco) through policies that expand access to effective, evidence-based treatment for pregnant and parenting people, children, and adolescents with substance use disorders.
- Support efforts to **promote safe communities** and **prevent childhood injuries**, including full funding to support core injury prevention programs in all states.
- Advocate for reauthorization of the **Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act**.
- Promote policies to address the prevention and mitigation of **adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress**.
- Support national efforts to **expand paid medical and parental leave policies**.
- Advocate for efforts addressing **environmental threats** to children's health, including lead poisoning prevention.
- Strengthen efforts to ensure **medical homes** for all children, especially those with special health care needs.
- Expand access to **preconception care and family planning services**, including efforts to ensure access to comprehensive health care services and supports and efforts to promote intended pregnancies and healthy births.
- Support and expand funding for **Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**.
- Support comprehensive approaches to **chronic disease and obesity prevention** in MCH populations.
- Support efforts to increase awareness of **sickle cell disease** as a racial equity concern and increase investment in sickle cell disease surveillance, newborn screening follow-up, access to care, research, and treatment.