

2023

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. We commit to evaluating policies through the lens of dismantling racism and pursuing health equity and racial equity.



AMCHP will play a **leadership role** to advance policies that:



Fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant at \$1 billion, including a robust

increase for the state formula, for FY2024 to improve the health of all women, children and youth, including those with special health care needs, and families.



Prioritize MCH populations in the context of public health emergencies with particular emphasis on communities that are disproportionately impacted, including communities of color and children and youth with special health care needs.



Improve maternal and infant health and eliminate racial and ethnic inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes, including policies designed to **reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity**.

AMCHP will play a **partnership role** to advance policies that:

- Address the mental health needs of pregnant and parenting people, children, and adolescents, including those with disabilities, through increasing access to the full spectrum of integrated behavioral health services.
- Prevent and mitigate the misuse of substances by equitably expanding access to the full continuum of services, including prevention, family-centered treatment, and harm reduction, for pregnant and parenting people and youth who use substances.
- Permanently authorize the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Support family and child well-being, including through a national paid family and medical leave program, and reduce child poverty, including through permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Increase investment in surveillance, newborn screening follow-up, access to care, research, and treatment for sickle cell disease and trait and highlight this issue as a racial equity and racial justice concern.
- Reauthorize the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act.
- Promote safe communities and prevent childhood injuries, including full funding to support core injury prevention programs in all states.
- Prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress.
- Ensure medical homes and care coordination for all children and increase investment in systems and supports for children and youth with special health care needs and their families, including home and community based services.
- Address environmental threats to children's health, including lead poisoning prevention, and climate threats to MCH populations.
- Expand access to the full spectrum of services for reproductive health care, preconception care, and family planning services, including through increased funding for the Title X Family Planning Program.
- Increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and promote collaboration between education and health systems supporting children from birth to age 21.
- Support comprehensive approaches to chronic disease and obesity prevention in MCH populations.
- Promote equitable access to food and nutrition for MCH populations, including through increased investments in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Increase investment in public health infrastructure, including workforce development,
- Facilitate access to telehealth services for MCH populations, including broadband expansion.