

### **Maryland Title V MCH Block Grant Summary of Program Activities, FY 2011**

Maryland's Maternal and Child Health Block Grant supports vital programs and services for women and children in Maryland, including those with special health care needs. The Title V MCH Program is jointly administered by the Center for Maternal and Child Health (CMCH) and the Office for Genetics and Children with Special Health Care Needs (OGCSHCN) under the auspices of the Family Health Administration (FHA). The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has a strong commitment to core public health functions and essential public health services to Maryland's families and children.

The Maternal and Child Health Program's budget and activities complement and enhance the state's health delivery system, and recognize recent legislative changes in health and mandated public health functions. The program also considers the uniqueness of the populations being served, emerging trends and promising/best practices and standards of care affecting the health of Maryland families. The total Title V budget for FY 2011 includes:

**MCH Block Grant: \$11,953,971**  
**State Funds: \$8,965,479**  
**TOTAL: \$20,919,450**

The majority of funds are awarded to local health departments to address maternal and child health goals and objectives identified in the Block Grant application. In State Fiscal Year 2011, these funds supported the following activities:

#### **Center for Maternal and Child Health Programs and Services**

Preventive and primary care services for women and children are administered by the Center for Maternal and Child Health (CMCH). The mission of CMCH is to improve the health and well-being of all women, newborns, children and adolescents in Maryland.

#### **Maternal and Perinatal Health Program**

▪ Supported by Title V funds

The purpose of this program is to prevent maternal and infant deaths and improve perinatal care for the 75,000+ babies born each year in Maryland. Activities and strategies include providing funds and support for:

- Statewide Perinatal Standards, and perinatal systems building activities in each jurisdiction, including maternal, fetal and infant mortality reviews, and perinatal center review and designation;
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) educational and family support activities;
- Babies Born Healthy, a statewide initiative to reduce infant mortality and eliminate racial disparities in birth outcomes;
- A statewide survey to improve pregnancy outcomes (PRAMS);
- Promotion of infant breastfeeding;
- Care coordination services and home visiting for pregnant women and infants; and,
- Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) prevention activities.

**Family Planning and Reproductive Health Program**

- Supported by both Title V and Title X funds

The goal of this program is to reduce unintended pregnancies, improve reproductive health and prevent adverse pregnancy outcomes. The Program funds and supports:

- Family planning/reproductive health clinical services in each jurisdiction;
- Healthy Teen and Young Adult Projects, offering a holistic approach to teen pregnancy prevention in three Maryland jurisdictions; and,
- Preventive services, including preconception counseling, screening/treatment for sexually transmitted infections, breast and cervical cancer screening, referrals for mental health, domestic violence and substance abuse treatment services, and counseling for teens on ways to avoid sexual coercion.

**Children and Adolescent Health Programs**

- Supported by Title V funds and must represent at least 30% of Block Grant funding

The goal of this program is to promote and protect the health of Maryland's 1.5 million children and adolescents, ages 0-21, by assuring that comprehensive, quality preventive and primary services are accessible. Activities and strategies include providing funds and support for:

- Early Childhood Initiatives, including home visiting, early childhood mental health and promotion of access to a medical home;
- Childhood Lead Screening Program, which promotes increased blood lead testing, particularly in "at risk" areas;
- The Maryland Asthma Control Program, which includes partnership building and implementation of interventions, planning, and surveillance;
- School health programs, including medical consultation and development of guidelines related to issues such as childhood nutrition and obesity;
- Child Fatality Review, the goal of which is to prevent child deaths by developing an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths.

**Office of Genetics and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Programs and Services**

- Supported by Title V funds and must represent at least 30% of Block Grant funding

The mission of Maryland's Program for Children with Special Health Needs is: (a) to reduce death, illness and disability from genetic disorders, birth defects and chronic diseases and injuries and to improve the quality of life for affected individuals; (b) to protect and promote the health of Maryland children with special health needs by assuring a family-centered, community-based, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate system of specialty health care. The State's CSHCN Program is housed in the OGCSHCN. The FY 2010 budget includes:

**Payment for Medical/Clinical Services**

Through the Children's Medical Services Program, payment for direct specialty care and related services is made to providers for uninsured and underinsured children who meet the medical and financial eligibility criteria for the program.

- Genetic Services

Funding is also provided for a statewide system of clinical genetic services, including infrastructure support for 3 Genetics Centers, 14 Outreach Clinics, the Comprehensive Hemophilia Treatment Center, pediatric and transition (adolescent/young adult) Sickle Cell Disease Clinics and specialized biochemical genetics laboratory services.

- Birth Defects Program

The Birth Defects Reporting and Information System (BDRIS) collects data on birth defects to estimate birth defects prevalence, track trends and conduct surveillance for changes in trends that could be related to environmental hazards. BDRIS also uses the full resources of the OGCSHCN to provide families with information and referrals.

- Medical Day Care for CSHCN

Two medical day care programs designed specifically for medically fragile infants and young children are funded by the Program. These unique centers provide skilled nursing services in a child care setting for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years who have complex medical conditions and whose needs cannot be met in traditional child care programs.

- Local Health Department Grants

In addition to funding local health departments for core public health activities, funds are also provided specifically for CSHCN services and programs. Outreach specialty clinics are still funded in some jurisdictions, but most jurisdictions have replaced actual clinics with gap-filling care coordination, outreach, information/referral, dissemination of resource information, and needs assessment activities. The local health departments also administer the respite care funds provided through the local health department grants.

- Respite Programs and Special Camps

Enabling services are growing in Maryland. In addition to the PKU and Sickle Cell Disease camps that have been funded for many years, specialty camps for children with neurofibromatosis and spina bifida are now being supported. Local health departments are now funding a variety of respite services as well as increasing community capacity for providing them with grant funds provided by the OGCSHCN.

- Parent Involvement Activities

Parental involvement in policy and program development is supported through a grant to Parent's Place of Maryland (PPMD), a non-profit, family-directed and staffed center serving parents of children with disabilities and special health care needs. PPMD also houses the Maryland chapter of Family Voices. PPMD and OGCSHCN have an ongoing partnership in a number of activities. These include the Family-to-Family Health Education and Information Center, which provides families of CYSHCN with a central source of information and education about the health care system as well as direct family support and referrals as well as the Maryland Community of Care Consortium for CSHCN. The Consortium is funded by a grant from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau and offers a forum for information exchange, problem solving, consensus building, and collaborative action to address gaps and barriers in services for children with special health care needs (CSHCN) and their families.

- CSHCN Systems-Building Activities

System-building activities include grants to four Centers of Excellence (Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland, Children's National Medical Center, and Kennedy Krieger Institute) to support a Resource Liaison at each center whose function is to assist families of CYSHCN to find needed resources both within the centers and within the community. In some centers, these individuals may work directly with particular clinics and play a greater role in coordinating the care of CYSHCN. Grant funds may also support wraparound services such as nutrition and social work.

- Data Development

Projects include the continued development of in a voluntary, confidential CSHCN database to be used for ongoing needs assessment purposes, and the procurement of enhanced web-based databases for newborn hearing and blood spot (metabolic disorder) screening. The newborn blood spot screening program has implemented an on-line system for primary care providers to look up the screening results on their patients. The infant hearing screening program has initiated and integrated a statewide online data management system for the Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program. The online data base allows for virtually real time data sharing which facilitates more timely and accurate follow up and improved continuity of hearing health care.

- Newborn Screening

Newborn screening includes two major programs. The Blood Spot Newborn Screening Program screens newborns for 54 disorders that can cause mental retardation or severe medical problems unless treated soon after birth. (This program also screens for sickle cell disease.) Babies with any screening test result that is not normal are followed up to find out whether they actually have the disorder. Babies with disorders receive appropriate long term treatment and management. The Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (MD EHDI) Program provides tracking and surveillance of universal newborn hearing screening and follow up. All infants born in Maryland undergo hearing screening to facilitate early identification and intervention for hearing loss. Babies that do not pass their screening or are identified as at risk for late onset hearing loss are followed to ensure appropriate diagnostic and intervention services are received. Screening services for expectant mothers include AFP/Multiple Marker screening for the detection of neural tube defects and certain chromosomal anomalies. Carrier screening is offered for the hemoglobinopathies, Tay-Sachs Disease, and other diseases at high incidence in specific populations.