



President's Budget Update

Earlier today, President Obama released his fiscal year 2013 budget proposal for the federal government. This budget includes proposed funding levels for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including \$640 million for the Title V Maternal and Child (MCH) Services Health Block Grant. This represents a less than 1% cut from the Congressionally appropriated level of \$645 million for Title V for fiscal year 2012.*

A link to the full budget justification for HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau funding is available [here](#) (starting on page 186). At first glance it appears all other MCHB programs are proposed to be flat funded with the exception of the proposed elimination of the Family to Family Health Information Centers (\$5 million.) AMCHP will provide a more detailed chart of the president's proposed funding levels for all key MCH programs including CDC soon.

It is important to note that the President's budget is the first step in the annual funding process and is an indication of the Administration's funding priorities. This proposal does not get signed into law. Congress will decide on final funding levels during the upcoming year and develop their annual appropriations bills.

The fiscal year 2013 begins on Oct. 1, 2012, so there is plenty of time to make our voice heard on Capitol Hill about the importance and value of the Title V MCH Block Grant. The Association of Maternal & Child Health Program (AMCHP) recognizes tough choices will need to be made in the current budget climate. We will be mobilizing in the coming days and weeks to do all we can to urge Congress to provide sustained funding, and we will need your help. This includes making visits with policymakers in conjunction with the AMCHP Annual Conference underway now and the opportunity to participate in a virtual Hill Day tomorrow, as always in accordance with your organization's rules on advocacy. Together we must continue to make the case for programs serving MCH populations and ensure that policymakers understand how what you do makes a difference in people's lives.

* In FY 2012, Congress appropriated [\\$645 million](#) for the Title V MCH Block Grant, which we understand was then reduced by nearly \$5 million via HHS transfers to support the [President's December 2011 announcement](#) redirecting \$50 million for increased funding for domestic HIV/AIDS treatment and care.