

## How Title V supports: **Women's/Maternal Health**



The health and well-being of people prior to, during, and after pregnancy can impact health outcomes across the life course and the health of the next generation. The Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant provides direct, enabling, and population level services to women and pregnant people across Pennsylvania. **Title V funds support over 120,000 pregnant people annually, approximately 91% of all deliveries in the state.** Beginning in 2021, women's/maternal health strategies will aim to advance Priority 1 of the Title V Action Plan.

### **PRIORITY 1**

Reduce or improve maternal morbidity and mortality, especially where there is inequity

### *Addressing priority health needs with evidence-based strategies*



#### **Preconception Health**

Title V programs at county and municipal health departments aim to support health prior to pregnancy. Pregnancy intention screening tools, such as One Key Question®, are used to decrease unintended pregnancies and improve the health of wanted pregnancies. This initiative aims to help people determine when they are ready to begin or expand their families and obtain optimal health before pregnancy.



#### **Access to Prenatal Care**

Title V supports Centering Pregnancy Programs, a patient-centered model of group prenatal care, at hospitals where low birthweight and racial disparities in infant health outcomes exceed the statewide average. The curriculum covers birth control, birth spacing, and active participation in interconception care.



#### **Support for Families at Home**

The county and municipal health department Title V home visiting programs aim to support people in the prenatal and postpartum period who may not be eligible for traditional home visiting programming, including those with repeat pregnancies or delayed enrollment. Home visiting programs provide health check-ups, screenings, referrals, caregiver advice, and guidance in navigating other family-focused programs and services in the community.



#### **Interconception Care and Family Planning**

Through an initiative with Family Planning Councils, Title V aims to reduce the rate of unplanned pregnancies among people with opioid use disorder. Projects include training behavioral health providers to assess pregnancy intention and contraceptive needs, facilitating access to family planning services for treatment facilities, conducting screenings in schools to identify youth in need of services, and educating communities about substance use disorder.

Title V also supports a partnership with the University of Pennsylvania to implement the IMPLICIT Interconception Care Program, wherein maternal screenings are conducted at well-child visits. This interconception care project works within scheduled well-child visits to evaluate the health of mothers.



#### **Postpartum Care**

Title V funds support the "4th Trimester" project, an initiative of the IMPLICIT Network, to address maternal morbidity and mortality in the postpartum period. The initiative allows providers to identify high-risk birthing people, develop tailored care recommendations for families and increase the number of birthing people receiving maternal health care within 28 days of delivery. Through this initiative, biomedical and psychosocial risk factors associated with maternal morbidity and mortality, such as cardiovascular health, mental health, substance use, and trauma, will be identified and addressed.



#### **Collaboration and Partnership**

Through coordination and collaboration with maternal health partners across the commonwealth, such as the Department of Human Services and Pennsylvania's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Title V funds are leveraged to deliver non-duplicative services. Title V intends to implement recommendations and best practices as they are identified by the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

The Department of Health's Bureau of Family Health is the Title V Administrator in Pennsylvania.

For more information, e-mail [RA-DHPATITLEV@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHPATITLEV@pa.gov) or visit our website:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Administrative/Pages/Title-V.aspx>