

FY2019 and FY2020 Program Priorities, Key Issues and Legislative Mandates

Program Priorities

Title X Priorities include all of the legal requirements covered within the Title X statute, regulations, and legislative mandates. All applicants must comply with the requirements regarding the provision of family planning services that can be found in the statute (Title X of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C § 300 et seq.) and the implementing regulations (42 CFR part 59, subpart A). In addition, sterilization of clients as part of the Title X program must be consistent with 42 CFR part 50, subpart B (“Sterilization of Persons in Federally Assisted Family Planning Projects”).

Key Issues

1. Assuring innovative quality family planning and related preventive health services that lead to improved reproductive health outcomes and overall optimal health, which is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease. Guidance regarding the delivery of quality family planning services is spelled out in the April 25, 2014, MMWR, [Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations of CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs](#). Periodic updates have been made to this publication and are available on the [Quality Family Planning page](#). It is expected that the core family planning services listed in the Program Description, and which also are included in the Quality Family Planning Services document referenced above, will be provided by each project;
2. Providing the tools necessary for the inclusion of substance abuse disorder screening into family planning services offered by Title X applicants;
3. Following a model that promotes optimal health outcomes for the client (physical, mental and social health) by emphasizing comprehensive primary health care services, along with family planning services preferably in the same location or through nearby referral providers;
4. Providing resources that prioritize optimal health outcomes (physical, mental, and social health) for individuals and couples with the goal of healthy relationships and stable marriages as they make decisions about preventing or achieving pregnancy;
5. Providing counseling for adolescents that encourages sexual risk avoidance by delaying the onset of sexual activity as the healthiest choice, and developing tools to communicate the public health benefit and protective factors for the sexual health of adolescents found by delaying the onset of sexual activity thereby reducing the overall number of lifetime sexual partners;

6. Communicating the growing body of information for a variety of fertility awareness-based methods of family planning and providing tools for applicants to use in patient education about these methods;
7. Fostering interaction with community and faith-based organizations to develop a network for client referrals when needs outside the scope of family planning are identified;
8. Accurately collecting and reporting data, such as the [Family Planning Annual Report](#) (FPAR), for use in monitoring performance and improving family planning services;
9. Promoting the use of a standardized instrument, such as the OPA Program Review Tool, to regularly perform quality assurance and quality improvement activities with clearly defined administrative, clinical, and financial accountability for applicants and subrecipients; and
10. Increasing attention to CDC screening recommendations for chlamydia and other STDs (as well as HIV testing) that have potential long-term impact on fertility and pregnancy.

Legislative Mandates

1. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be made available to any entity under Title X of the Public Health Service Act unless the applicant for the award certifies to the Secretary of Health and Human Services that it encourages family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that it provides counseling to minors on how to resist attempts to coerce minors into engaging in sexual activities.
2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no provider of services under Title X of the Public Health Service Act shall be exempt from any State law requiring notification or the reporting of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape, or incest.