

2018 Program Priorities, Key Issues and Legislative Mandates

Program Priorities

1. Assuring innovative high quality family planning and related health services that will improve the overall health of individuals, couples and families, with priority for services to those of low -income families, offering, at a minimum, core family planning enumerated earlier in this Funding Announcement. Assuring that projects offer broad range of family planning and related health services that are tailored to the unique needs of the individual, that include natural family planning methods (also known as fertility awareness based methods) which ensure breadth and variety among family planning methods offered, infertility services, and services for adolescents; breast and cervical cancer screening and prevention of STDs as well as HIV prevention education, counseling, testing, and referrals;
2. Assuring activities that promote positive family relationships for the purpose of increasing family participation in family planning and healthy decision-making; education and counseling that prioritize optimal health and life outcomes for every individual and couple; and other related health services, contextualizing Title X services within a model that promotes optimal health outcomes for the client.
3. Ensuring that all clients are provided services in a voluntary, client-centered and non-coercive manner in accordance with Title X regulations.
4. Promoting provision of comprehensive primary health care services to make it easier for individuals to receive both primary health care and family planning services preferably in the same location, or through nearby referral providers, and increase incentive for those individuals in need of care choosing a Title X provider.
5. Assuring compliance with State laws requiring notification or the reporting of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape, incest, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking;
6. Encouraging participation of families, parents, and/or legal guardians in the decision of minors to seek family planning services; and providing counseling to minors on how to resist attempts to coerce minors into engaging in sexual activities;
7. Demonstrating that Title X activities are separate and clearly distinct from non-Title X activities, ensuring that abortion is not a method of family planning for this grant; and
8. Use of OPA performance metrics to regularly perform quality assurance and quality improvement activities.

Key Issues

In addition to program priorities, the following key issues should be considered in developing the project plan:

1. Efficiency and effectiveness in program management and operations;
2. Management and decision-making and accountability for outcomes;
3. Cooperation with community -based and faith -based organizations;
4. Meaningful collaboration with subrecipients and documented partners in order to demonstrate a seamless continuum of care for clients;
5. A meaningful emphasis on education and counseling that communicates the social science research and practical application of topics related to healthy relationships, to committed, safe, stable, healthy marriages, and the benefits of avoiding sexual risk or returning to a sexually risk -free status, especially (but not only) when communicating with adolescents;
6. Activities for adolescents that do not normalize sexual risk behaviors, but instead clearly communicate the research informed benefits of delaying sex or returning to a sexually risk-free status.
7. Emphasis on the voluntary nature of Family Planning services;
8. Data collection (such as the Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR) for use in monitoring performance and improving family planning services.

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.