

Title X: Recession Increases Demand for Services While Shrinking Funding

The recession has resulted in millions of women choosing to delay childbearing or limit the number of children they have, and many of these women are turning to Title X-funded health centers for care. Data published by the Guttmacher Institute in 2009 showed that two-thirds of the public family planning centers surveyed reported an increase in clients from the first quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009.ⁱ This increase is reflected in the significant increase in patients seen in Title X-funded health centers.

- In 2009, Title X-funded providers served more than five million low-income men and women at more than 4,500 service delivery sites – an increase of more than 130,000 patients over 2008. ***This is the largest number of patients in the last 10 years,***ⁱⁱ and stems from the worst recession the United States has seen in 70 years.
- Even as family planning providers and systems struggled to meet the increased demand for services, some ***states are cutting family planning funding.*** For example, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie (R) eliminated all family planning funding in 2010, even going so far as to withdraw the state's application to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand the state's Medicaid coverage of family planning services.
- As states continue to struggle to close widening budget gaps, they are now eyeing significant cuts to Medicaid. If states like Arizona succeed in dropping hundreds of thousands of people from their Medicaid programs, other states will follow—putting an even greater strain on remaining safety-net programs like Title X.
- Making matters worse, the non-profit Center on Budget and Policy Priorities anticipates that the states' cumulative budget shortfall will reach \$140 billion in FY 2011,ⁱⁱⁱ making the continued support of Title X even more critical.
- This crisis will worsen under the federal budget cuts proposed by the House leadership. A new analysis by Federal Funds Information for States estimates that the proposed cuts would cost an additional \$17.6 billion to states in direct federal grants.^{iv}

The recession has deeply affected state budgets, putting a tremendous strain on already-stretched health and social services programs by bringing more Americans into the safety-net system. ***Cutting Title X funding would harm millions of low-income and poor families across the country, in turn costing, not saving, the federal government money.***

ⁱ The Guttmacher Institute, *A Real Time Look at the Impact of the Recession on Publicly Funded Family Planning Center* (September 2009). Available online at <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/RecessionFP.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ RTI International, *Family Planning Annual Report: 2009 National Summary* (November 2010). Available online at http://www.hhs.gov/opa/familyplanning/toolsdocs/fpar_2009_national_summary.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *New Fiscal Year Brings More Grief for State Budgets, Putting Economic Recovery at Risk* (June 29, 2010). Available online at <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3222>.

^{iv} National Journal Daily, Report: State Governments Could See Deep, Wide Cuts (February 1, 2011).