

August 31, 2021

Marc Garufi, Chief, Public Health Branch, Health Programs  
Hester Grippando, Program Examiner  
Sarah Sisaye, Program Examiner  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Title X Family Planning Program in the FY 2023 President's Budget

Dear Marc, Hester, and Sarah:

I am writing today on behalf of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) to urge you to allocate at least \$737 million for the Title X family planning program in the president's fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget. This significant funding increase is an important step for the administration to take to fulfill its expressed promise to improve access to family planning and sexual health one year into the president's first term.

NFPRHA is a non-partisan membership association that advances and elevates the importance of family planning in the nation's health care system and promotes and supports the work of family planning providers and administrators, especially in the safety net. Representing more than 900 members that operate or fund more than 3,500 health centers in the United States, NFPRHA conducts and participates in research; provides educational subject matter expertise to policymakers, health care providers, and the public; and offers its members capacity-building support aimed at maximizing their effectiveness and financial sustainability as providers of essential health care. Prior to the grantee shifts caused by the 2019 Title X rule, NFPRHA represented more than 75% of service grantees and more than 90% of service sites participating in the federal family planning program.

As you know, the Title X network has suffered catastrophic losses over the past two years, due in large part to the Trump administration's 2019 program rule and the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2021, HHS stated that Title X providers were only able to serve 1.5 million patients in 2020, down more than 60% from 2018,<sup>1</sup> and six states have had no Title X-funded providers for more than two years. The

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services, "Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services," 86 Federal Register 19812, 19817 (April 15, 2021).

administration has consistently recognized these challenges, moving quickly to issue new proposed rulemaking for the program. In addition, Congress has demonstrated strong support for rebuilding the network, including passing \$50 million for Title X in the American Rescue Plan.<sup>2</sup>

Moving into FY 2023, Title X will continue to need substantial federal investment to rebuild the network and make publicly funded family planning and sexual health services available to millions more people. As of August 2021, the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) anticipates finalizing the new Title X rule in the fall and issuing Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for the entire country to compete for Title X funds to be spent under the new regulation. However, those funds will likely not be distributed until April 2022, as the current grants end on March 31, 2022, and grantees and subrecipients will need a sustained investment to increase access to care.

While the FY 2022 process is not yet complete, Congress has taken action to significantly increase funding for Title X, with the House passing a Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill that included \$400 million for Title X.<sup>3</sup> If that level is adopted by the Senate and signed by the president, it would be the largest increase in the program's history. In addition, 142 members of the House and 46 Senators signed letters requesting that appropriators allocate \$512 million for the program. To build on that progress, NFPRHA urges OMB to propose at least \$737 million for Title X in FY 2023. This request is based on the latest federal research on Title X – in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OPA found that the program would require annual appropriations of \$737 million just to serve women in need of Title X-supported services.<sup>4</sup>

The administration should also take this important step as part of its overarching plan to promote health equity and racial and economic justice. Equalizing access to high-quality, affordable preventive health care, including family planning and sexual health services, is a key part of achieving those vital goals. In many communities, Title X providers are often the only source of health care for people with no or low incomes, and 60% of female patients seeking contraception at a Title X-funded health center say it is the only health care provider they see all

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<sup>2</sup> *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*. Public Law 117-2. *U.S. Statutes at Large* 135 (2021).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Congress, House, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2022, HR 4502. 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

<sup>4</sup> Euna August et al, "Projecting the Unmet Need and Costs for contraception Services After the Affordable Care Act," *American Journal of Public Health* 106:2 (February 2016). doi: 10.2105/ AJPH.2015.302928.

year.<sup>5</sup> In addition, in 2019, 24% of people receiving Title X-supported services were Black, 33% were Latinx, and 64% had incomes at or below the federal poverty line, demonstrating that Title X-funded health centers play an essential role in the health care safety net in communities across the country.<sup>6</sup>

I look forward to working with you to improve access to Title X family planning care and the family planning safety net throughout the Biden administration. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Weiss, Director, Policy & Communications, at [lweiss@nfprha.org](mailto:lweiss@nfprha.org) or 202-417-4867.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare M. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Coleman  
President & CEO

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<sup>5</sup> Meghan Kavanaugh, "Use of Health Insurance Among Clients Seeking Contraceptive Services at Title X Funded Facilities in 2016," Guttmacher Institute (June 2018). <https://www.guttmacher.org/journals/psrh/2018/06/use-health-insurance-among-clients-seekingcontraceptive-services-title-x>.

<sup>6</sup> Christina Fowler et al, "Family Planning Annual Report: 2019 National Summary," Office of Population Affairs (September 2020). <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/title-x-fpar-2019-national-summary.pdf>.