

November 8, 2023

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

RE: Title X in the FY 2025 President's Budget

Dear Marc, Hester, and Eileen:

I am writing today on behalf of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPFRA) to urge you to allocate at least \$512 million for the Title X family planning program in the president's fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget, as you did in FY 2024. For over 50 years, Title X-funded health centers have represented a place of safety and trust for millions of people across the country and often serve as patients' entry point to the health care system. This letter expands on a September 2023 coalition letter from 58 organizations similarly committed to securing \$512 million for Title X and contains important updates based on new Title X program data from the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) and NFPFRA members' experiences in the field.

On September 30, OPA released calendar year 2022 data on the Title X program.¹ This report showed a marked increase in services provided when compared to 2021, with an additional million patients served and an additional 700 service sites across the country. Altogether, providers at 4,126 health centers saw 2.6 million patients last year, providing extensive contraceptive counseling, services, and supplies; more than 3.5 million STI and HIV tests; and close to 500,000 cervical cancer screenings, among other key services. Importantly, 84% of patients had incomes at or below 250% of the poverty line, 31% were uninsured—close to four times the level for the US population overall²—, 31% were people of color, and 19% had limited English proficiency. These data points clearly demonstrate that Title X-supported health centers are reaching communities who may have difficulty accessing affordable, culturally appropriate care in other places.

As this data demonstrates, health centers are clearly working to meet the needs of more people in their communities now that they are under supportive rules, as finalized in November 2021 by the Biden administration. However, their efforts are hamstrung by the stagnant funding that Congress has allocated for the past ten years. For example, the Carson City Health Department

¹ Clochard, A., Killewald, P., Larson, A., Leith, W., Paxton, N., Troxel, J., & Wong, M. "Family Planning Annual Report: 2022 National Summary." Office of Population Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services. September 2023. <https://opa.hhs.gov/research-evaluation/title-x-services-research/family-planning-annual-report-fpar>.

² Cohen, R. and Cha, A. "Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2022." National Center for Health Statistics. May 5, 2023. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur202305_1.pdf.

in Nevada has had to scale back sexually transmitted infection services and outreach efforts for Spanish-speaking clients due to funding cuts,³ and Medical Associates Plus in Nevada has had to eliminate services in one rural county and end a weekly teen clinic.⁴ NFPRHA members across the board report that they are facing the same issues facing so much of the healthcare industry, from workforce shortages to inflation. All while working in a specific sector that has been under extreme pressure due to the continued impacts of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and other ideologically motivated attacks on health care. While not all Title X providers offer abortion care, all are impacted by the increasing demand for contraceptive services and for accurate and nonjudgmental pregnancy testing and options counseling, as well as the impacts in some areas of medical professionals leaving hostile states due to restrictions on evidence-based practice. Without a significant influx of funds, which \$512 million would provide, health centers simply will not be able to come close to meeting community needs.

As experts in the field, we would like to be of a resource to you to continuously update you on the state of family planning. We are a non-partisan, non-profit membership association that supports the work of family planning providers and administrators, especially in the safety net. NFPRHA membership includes almost 1,000 entities that operate or fund more than 3,500 health centers that deliver high-quality family planning education and preventive care to millions of people every year in the United States. As a leading expert in publicly funded family planning, NFPRHA conducts and participates in research; provides 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.

NFPRHA looks forward to continuing to work with the Biden administration to support a robust publicly funded family planning network across the country. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Lauren Weiss at lweiss@nfprha.org.

Sincerely,



Clare Coleman
President & CEO

³ "Federal Title X Funding Decimated for Many Providers." Relias Media: Contraceptive Technology Update. June 1, 2022. <https://www.reliasmmedia.com/articles/149422-federal-title-x-funding-decimated-for-many-providers>.

⁴ Raman, S. "Flat funding for Title X causes scramble for clinics." Roll Call. March 29, 2023. <https://rollcall.com/2023/03/29/flat-funding-for-title-x-causes-scramble-for-clinics/>