



BIRTH CONTROL ACCESS CAMPAIGN

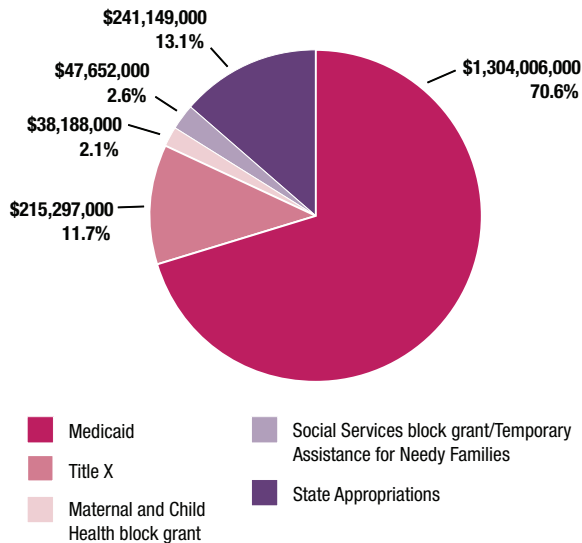
UNDERSTANDING FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING

PUBLIC FUNDS FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Several public programs fund family planning services for low income women and girls, providing approximately \$1.85 billion for such services. The vast majority of this money is distributed via Medicaid programs at both the federal and state levels. Title X of the Public Health and Service Act of 1970, a federal grant program, also provides funds. It is the only federal program devoted solely to family planning. However, the amount of money currently spent on the Title X program is clearly not meeting public need for low-cost family planning services.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Public expenditures on family planning client services, FY 2006



Source: Guttmacher Institute, "Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States" accessed 12 March 2010 at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.html



TITLE X: THE BASICS

Title X provides grants to over 4,600 public health clinics, which provide family planning services to millions of people. Among those services are contraception distribution, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, pregnancy testing and counseling, and educational programs. Title X funding cannot be used toward abortion services, but all clinics funded by Title X must provide patients with information on all family planning services, including abortion.

WHO USES CLINICS FUNDED BY TITLE X?

These public health clinics assist mostly low-income patients who do not qualify for Medicaid or have insurance that does not cover family planning services. Title X funds can subsidize or even fully cover the family planning costs of these patients. By increasing the accessibility of family planning and contraception, Title X helps prevent unplanned pregnancies and decreases the overall number of abortions. To find a public family planning clinic near you, visit www.opaclearinghouse.org/db_search.asp



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FAMILY PLANNING: VITAL FOR SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

Comprehensive family planning services, like those funded by Title X, are based in science and are medically necessary. The federal government has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars since 1996 on abstinence-only education programs, which have proven ineffective at preventing unplanned pregnancy and the spread of STIs. The 2010 & 2011 fiscal year budgets have eliminated funding for abstinence-only education, but some lawmakers continue to push for these programs.

In the United States, nearly half of all pregnancies are unintentional and there are approximately 19 million new cases of STIs each year, half of them among 15–24-year-olds.¹ We cannot afford to replace comprehensive family planning services with abstinence-only and faith-based programs ever again.

MEETING THE NEED FOR PUBLIC FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

One in four women has limited or no health insurance. A low income woman is more than four times more likely than an affluent woman to have an unintended pregnancy.² 17.5 million American women require publicly funding family planning services. Despite that need, only 54% of those women receive these services, leaving 8.5 million women without family planning services.³

The federal government spent \$317.4 million on Title X in 2009. The Prevention First Act, introduced in this session of Congress, would increase funding to \$700 million per year. This is a major step towards recognizing and meeting the need for increased family planning funds.

Experts believe that the government should be spending \$2 billion dollars on Title X to fully meet the public need for



necessary family planning services. While that may sound like a lot, for every \$1 spent on family planning services, the government saves \$4.02 in Medicaid expenditures.⁴ Learn more about the Prevention First Act and the steps you can take to increase family planning funding in the United States.

¹ Guttmacher Institute, "Facts on Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States" accessed 16 March 2010 at http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FIB_STI_US.html

² National Women's Law Center, "Increase Funding for the Title X Family Planning Program" accessed 12 March 2010 at <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/title%20x%20fact%20sheet%202009.pdf>

³ Guttmacher Institute, "Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States" accessed 12 March 2010 at http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.html

⁴ Ibid



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THE PREVENTION FIRST ACT

The Prevention First Act, introduced in Congress by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Representative Louise Slaughter, and Representative Diana DeGette in 2009, expands access to comprehensive sexual education and contraception in order to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The Prevention First Act would:

- Increase the annual funding for the Title X program from \$317.4 million to \$700 million.
- Allow states to expand access to Medicaid family planning services.
- Require health insurance plans to cover prescription contraceptives if they cover other drugs.
- Provide funding for an emergency contraception (EC) public education program.
- Require emergency rooms to offer EC to victims of sexual assault.
- Provide federal funding for teenage pregnancy prevention programs.
- Require that all programs provide medically accurate information about the health benefits of and failure rates of contraceptives.

Spread the word about the need for increased family planning funding. Support the Prevention First Act. Visit WWW.FEMINISTCAMPUS.ORG for more information and to print a petition for increased family planning funding to circulate on campus and in your community.