STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 7, 2020

TO: Health Officers
LMCH Coordinators | Nursing Directors | Finance Administrators

FROM: Carrie Tarry, Director
Division of Child and Adolescent Health

Carrie Tarry

SUBJECT: Local MCH Program during COVID-19 Emergency

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Title V Program received written guidance from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in March regarding the use of Title V funds during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Title V programs have an important role to play in delivering critical services and assisting local communities. Title V funds allow states to redirect these funds to support a state's needs in responding to an evolving issue, such as COVID-19 as long as the expenditure of MCH block grant funds is in accordance with state/jurisdiction's fiscal policies and regulations and is also consistent with the MCH block grant statute. **Local MCH must collectively continue to meet the rule that 30% of funds must be used for the primary and preventative services for children.**

Potential responses may include:

- Offering the support or leadership of Title V epidemiologists, in partnership with other state staff, to an outbreak investigation.
- Providing support in educating the MCH population about COVID-19 through partnerships with other state agencies, medical providers, and health care organizations.
- Working closely with state and local emergency preparedness staff to assure that the needs of the MCH population are represented.
- Funding infrastructure that supports the response to COVID-19. For example, Public Health Nurses who are routinely supported through the Title V program may be able to be mobilized, using Title V funds or separate emergency funding, to support a call center or deliver health services.
- Partnering with parent networks and health care providers to provide accurate and reliable information to all families.

- Engaging community leaders, including faith-based leaders, to educate community members about strategies for preventing illness.

LHDs are able to redirect LMCH funds to support COVID-19 activities. As long as the expenditure of LMCH funds is in accordance with state/local fiscal policies and regulations and **does not deviate from serving children**, as per your FY 20 LMCH Plan, you do not need to seek prior approval/amendment to use LMCH funds as part of the COVID-19 response. Please keep your state LMCH team apprised of your efforts, as you are able.

Please note if your agency still needs an amendment, the MDHHS amendment process is still in place. As per our April 1 email to LHD, the fourth and final FY 20 budget amendments will be due to budgets and contracts by June 5. If you want the LMCH Team to request an amendment, due to the department's internal procedures, we need your LMCH plan revisions by **May 12, 2020**. Amendment requests should be submitted to MDHHS-Maternal-Child-Health@michigan.gov.

We are here to serve as a resource and support for LMCH. Please reach out to your LMCH consultants, Trudy Esch and Robin Orsborn if you have questions.

Thank you for your efforts every day to improve the health of Michigan's mothers, children, and families.

Stay home. Stay Safe. Save lives.