



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 15, 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: Local MCH Program during COVID Emergency - FY 2021

This memo provides information about using MCH funds for COVID-19 activities in FY 2021. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) continues to allow 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 health services and assisting local communities. Title V allows 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 fiscal policies and regulations and is also consistent with the MCH block grant statute. **Local MCH must collectively continue to meet the federal rule that 30% of Title V funds must be used for preventive and primary care services for children.**

Potential responses by Title V funded programs 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 can redirect LMCH funds to support COVID-19 activities related to the maternal and child population in FY 2021. 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 ages 1-21**, as per your FY 2021 LMCH Plan, you do not need to seek prior approval/amendment to use MCH funds as part of the COVID-19 response. Please keep your state LMCH team apprised of your efforts, to the extent possible.

COVID-19 activities and the amount of MCH funds expended for COVID-19 must be recorded in the LMCH year-end narrative reporting column and in the year-end Number and Expenditure Table. Additional explanation of funds can be completed in a note in the “explanation” box in EGrAMS with the final FSR.

These requirements will be reflected in Attachment III of the Comprehensive Agreement.

Please note if your agency still needs an amendment, the MDHHS amendment process is still in place. An amendment must be used if you are moving funds between projects.

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

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

Stay home. Stay Safe. Save lives.