

Delaware's Title V Maternal and Child Health

2015-2020 Needs Assessment

June 2015 Update

Background:

Title V of the Social Security Act reflects our nation's commitment to improving the health and well-being of women, children - including children with special health care needs, and their families, and is operationalized through a block grant. For an overview of the Title V Block Grant and the national health priorities it addresses, please visit <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/blockgrant/>.

In Delaware, the Title V Block Grant serves as the foundation for much of our Maternal & Child Health Program, and is administered by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH).

In September 2014, the Delaware Division of Public Health initiated its 2015 Title V Strengths and Needs Assessment process. Every 5 years, as a part of the federal Maternal and Child Health Title V Block Grant, Delaware is required to complete a comprehensive assessment of maternal and child health systems and populations' strengths and needs. This process is now in the final phases and as promised, we are communicating our progress and activity to date.

Update on Needs Assessment Progress:

Since our last communication with stakeholders, we have made the following progress:

- **Stakeholder Survey:** A stakeholder survey was distributed at the end of January, 2015 to 700+ recipients, and resulted in a nearly 40% response rate. The survey was designed to gather input from our professional/organizational stakeholders on topic areas that they see as a priority for Delaware's Maternal and Child Health Program to address.
- **Community Focus Groups:** Nine focus groups were conducted with a total of 86 individuals from across the state. Focus groups were held in all three counties and the City of Wilmington, with four discussions for parents of children with special health care needs (including one for Spanish speaking citizens), and five discussions that focused on women, children, and adolescent health (including three for Spanish speaking citizens). These discussions were well attended, despite a few reschedules due to inclement weather.
- **Key Informant Interviews:** Twelve interviews were conducted in March and April with key maternal and child health stakeholders throughout the state. Each interviewee was selected based on their professional expertise and in accordance with the population domains being covered in the needs assessment process. Respondents provided insights on the findings of the stakeholder survey and on opportunities for the Title V Program.
- **Data, Data, EVERYWHERE!** The Needs Assessment Steering Committee completed its review of all data compiled- including quantitative data from various national sources, stakeholder survey findings, focus group results, key informant interview findings, and a review of DPH capacity. The committee was responsible for reviewing and understanding the data, and then assigning scores for each of the fifteen national health areas in order to rank them. A set of 7 variables were considered in this prioritization process, including size and seriousness of the health issue; disparities in outcomes; stakeholder support;

importance to the community; and alignment with national and state goals. Once all individual rankings were completed, the findings were combined to determine the overall priority ranking. The final step was to ensure that each of the 6 Title V population domains was represented in the priority health area selection, and that all rules outlined in the Title V guidance had been considered.

- **Priorities and Action Plans:** A set of 8 priorities have been selected for Delaware's Title V Program, and can be viewed at <http://dethrives.com/title-v>. Based on input and discussions with many stakeholders, a high-level action plan has been developed to address each of these priorities. Please note that this plan represents the role that the Title V Program can play in improving the health of mothers and children, given our resources and capacity, and is not intended to be a comprehensive strategic plan to address each of the targeted health areas. Moving the needle on any of these health priority areas will require collective effort from many partners throughout the state.
- **What's Next?:** We invite you to review and provide feedback on Delaware's Title V action plan by visiting <http://dethrives.com/title-v>. Our annual Title V application is due July 15, 2015. We will do our best to review and consider all feedback received by June 30, 2015, prior to our submission. However, please know that this is an evergreen plan and we will have opportunities to make adjustments throughout the year.

We are very pleased with the work that has been completed to this point, and want to say **thank you** to all of you who have participated in this process. The resulting priorities and action plan define an exciting path forward for our Title V efforts to support the health of Delaware's mothers, children – including children with special health care needs, and families.

Questions? Please reach out to any of us!

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