

May 17, 2011

**To: Members of the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance**  
**From: Sara Finger, Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health**  
**Re: Restore State Family Planning Funding in the State Budget**

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Wisconsin Statute Section 253.07 requires the Department of Health Services to support and maintain a network of family planning providers to ensure the delivery of family planning health services throughout the state of Wisconsin. State funding for this network provides the basic infrastructure for over 50 women's health centers across the state that provide preventive care to over 40,000 patients, including cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, patient education and counseling, pregnancy diagnosis, prenatal counseling and referrals and the preventive medicine that more than 90% of American women rely on at some point in their lives: birth control. Without this infrastructure, health centers across the state—especially those in rural areas—would be forced to close and cut off access to basic health for local women.

The family planning network is funded by state GPR dollars combined with federal matching dollars. The federal matching dollars are allocated as part of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block grant, which distributes federal funds to reduce infant mortality, ensure comprehensive prenatal care and support prevention services. In the last budget cycle, Wisconsin's MCH block grant was \$10.7 million, with about \$4 million (\$1.7 FED and \$2.17 GPR) of that being allocated for family planning.

Under this grant, the state must meet certain maintenance of effort requirements to qualify for federal dollars, including a state match of \$3 in state funding for every \$4 of federal funding the state receives. **According to a March 14, 2011 memo from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, it is possible that the elimination of state family planning funds will compromise the matching federal dollars under this program.** This could result in the loss of the federal portion of family planning funding under the grant (\$1.7 million) or it could risk the entire \$10 million federal portion of the MCH program.

Governor Walker's actions eliminating state family planning funding from the 2011-12 biennium budget are not only devastating for women's health in Wisconsin, but have a significant negative on the state's economy. Family planning is one of the most cost effective investments that a state can make—for every \$1 spent on family planning, \$4 are saved by reducing unintended pregnancies that are paid for through Medicaid funded prenatal, labor and delivery care. Family planning is so cost effective because to provide birth control services that help women avoid unintended pregnancies costs about \$350/year; however, covering the cost of Medicaid prenatal, labor and delivery care costs at least \$8,000. In fact, according to DHS, family planning programs saved taxpayers \$140 million and prevented 11,000 unintended pregnancies in 2008 alone. (*Page 25 of the Budget AB 40*)

The amount being eliminating equals \$3.8 million over the biennium and adds up to only .08% of the total state budget. Cutting this significantly small amount of funding will not only fail to help fix a state budget deficit but will lead to increased costs with higher rates of unintended pregnancies, later detection and treatment of cancers and less access to prenatal care and counseling.

**For the sake of Wisconsin women's health, well-being and economic security and the economic well-being of our state, please restore the state family planning funding in the state budget.**

**What is a family planning center?** A family planning center is a site that offers contraceptive services to the general public and uses public funds, including Medicaid, to provide free or reduced-fee services to at least some clients. These sites may be operated by a diverse range of provider agencies, including community health centers, family planning clinics, hospitals, public health departments, and other independent organizations. These centers do not provide abortion services.

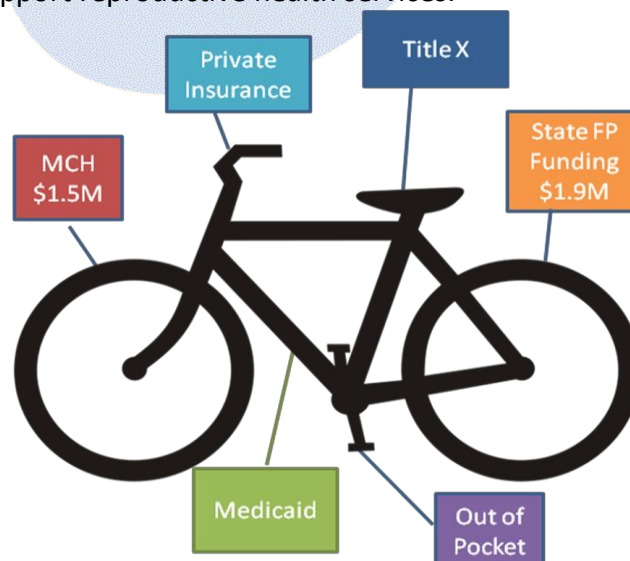
### What services to family planning center provide?

- Breast cancer screening
- Cervical cancer screening
- Family planning counseling – including birth control services & supplies
- HIV screening & education
- Prenatal & Perinatal care
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing & treatment
- Testicular & prostate cancer screenings
- Well woman exams

**How many family planning centers rely on state GPR funding combined with federal MCH Grant funding to provide care to local women?** 52 which serve over 40,000 patients statewide. The map of these centers is found attached.

**How much do state family planning centers save Wisconsin taxpayers?** For every \$1.00 invested in helping women prevention services to prevent unintended pregnancies saved \$3.74 in just Medicaid expenditures that otherwise would have been needed.

**What difference does removing the state GPR funding for family planning make?** The success of the state family planning network is dependent on a combination of funding sources that all work in tandem to create a working “bicycle”. Without the \$1.9 million in state GPR funding per year, the “bicycle” is crippled and does not work. By removing this “tire” and funding, it also jeopardized the entire \$10 million in MCH Block Grant funding - \$1.5 million of which goes to help support reproductive health services.



# Family Planning and Reproductive/Sexual Health Clinics in Wisconsin - 2011

