



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES
AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES
September 26, 2009**

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**Preventive Health and Health Services and Maternal Child Health
Block Grants**

Good afternoon, my name is Norma Gyle and I am the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Health. Today I am presenting the Department's proposed FFY 2010 Allocation Plan for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funds programs designed to reduce preventable morbidity and mortality, and improve the health status of populations. Congress established this Block Grant in 1981 and it was created with funds originally allocated to six separate categorical grants. The Block Grant funds may be used to fund activities consistent with making progress towards achieving the objectives in the national public health plan for the health status of the population (also known as Healthy People 2010), for rodent control and fluoridation programs, for planning, establishing and expanding the EMS system, for providing services for victims of sex offenses and for planning, monitoring and evaluation of such programs. In Connecticut, the PHHS Block Grant supports a variety of public health programs, many of which are implemented at the local level.

Connecticut's 2009 Preventive Block Grant Award was increased slightly by \$66,086, providing total funding of \$1,468,436 this amount includes both a basic award of \$1,385,040 and a set aside of \$83,396 specifically for Sex Offense programs. The estimated expenditures of \$1,629,523 in FFY 2009 utilized \$161,087 of the balance forward from previous years to supplement the \$1,468,436 award. A total of \$150,122 of the balance forward will supplement the \$1,385,040 estimated federal allocation for basic programs and \$83,396 for rape crisis services in the proposed FFY 2010 budget of \$1,618,527. This would leave an estimated \$344,146 in balance forward to fund cost increases in future years. The balance forward during the previous years is the result of unexecuted contracts with local departments of health and other community providers. The 2010 estimated budget is based on an assumption of level funding. However, the Department has a contingency plan in place, and, should an increase or reduction occur, the Department would review the recommendations of the Preventive Block Grant Advisory Committee and modify allocations as needed. The health priorities and program categories for FFY 10 remain the same as FFY 2009. Minor changes made are as follows:

- Effective January 2009, one FTE laboratory position was removed from the Preventive Block Grant budget.



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- Effective FFY 2009, the Surveillance and Evaluation programs support a .25 FTE Epidemiologist 4.

In regard to the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Allocation Plan, the MCHBG promotes the development of service systems in states to meet critical challenges in:

- Reducing infant mortality
- Providing and ensuring access to comprehensive care for women
- Promoting the health of children by providing preventive and primary care services and
- Providing family centered, community based, coordinated services for children and youth with special health needs.

There is a federal requirement that at least 30 percent of funds be used for prevention and primary care services and at least 30 percent be used for children with special health needs. There are a number of other administrative requirements of the block grant that are referenced in the Allocation Plan. The Department is in compliance with all administrative requirements.

There are a variety of services provided with MCH grant funds to meet the objectives, which are included in the allocation plan. These include case management services for pregnant women, MCH information and referral services (2-1-1), family planning, oral health, school-based primary and behavioral health, infant mortality, newborn screening, and medical homes for children and youth with special health care needs. Some funds will be used to address racial and ethnic disparities as it relates to infant mortality in the African American population and childhood obesity.

The FFY 2010 Maternal and Child Health Allocation Plan is based on estimated federal funding of \$4,748,137 and may be subject to change when the final federal appropriation is authorized. The allocation plan is based on an increased award amount of \$18,247 that occurred during FFY 2009.

The FFY 2009 Federal allocation was \$4,748,137 and the available carry over from FFY 2007 was \$533,846. With FFY 2009 projected expenditures of \$2,906,091 in the area of Maternal and Child Health/Preventive and Primary Care and \$2,304,515 in the area of Children with Special Health Care Needs for \$5,210,606 total expenditures, there will remain \$71,377 in carry over funds that will be available for FFY 2011 budget.

Total Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funding available for expenditure in FFY 2010 is estimated to be \$5,198,718 including carry over funds from FFY 2008. DPH, respectfully requests an amendment to the Table on page 17, under the Preventive & Primary Care for Children section, under the category "Other (6)" to correct the figures that represent estimated and proposed expenditures. Estimated expenditures should read as \$338,846 and proposed expenditures as \$113,042. In the Children and Youth with Special HealthCare Needs section, under the category "Other (6)" the correct figures for estimated expenditures should read as \$22,940 and proposed expenditures as \$66,502.

There are no anticipated changes in the Federal award at this time

Thank you for your consideration of these block grants. If you have any questions, Jim O'Connell, the agency's Chief Fiscal Officer, agency program staff and I will be happy to answer them.