



TITLE X AN ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR LATINAS

PUBLIC FUNDING FACT SHEET SERIES

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR TITLE X IN HEALTH CARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION?

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as health care reform, increases the rebates that pharmaceutical manufacturers must offer to Title X-supported family planning centers by about 50%. This is great news for Title X because it will help community health centers, which will bear much of the responsibility under the new law to improve family planning services. However, it is not clear whether some key medications are included in this reimbursement, such as contraception (the pill, the patch, the ring, etc.), or medications used as a part of pre-natal and post-partum care. Reproductive justice advocates like the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health are working to ensure that the new law helps rather than hurts community health clinics, including Title X-supported family planning clinics, which are tasked with making reform a reality.

WHY TITLE X IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR LATINAS?

Title X is an essential source of public funding for Latinas, especially low-income Latinas. Latinas have the highest uninsured rate (38%) of any racial or ethnic group, and over 20% of Latinas live in poverty. Title X clinics offer a number of services free of charge for Latinas who live at or below the poverty line. A sliding scale fee is also available to Latinas who have incomes up to 250% of the poverty line.

In many states, a Title X clinic is one of the few places an uninsured, recent immigrant can access reproductive health care. Under the 1996 welfare law, documented immigrants who entered the country after August 22, 1996 are excluded from Medicaid for their first five years of legal permanent residency unless the state they reside in specifically covers them through state funds. Undocumented immigrants are only covered by federal Medicaid for emergencies. Latinas who are recent immigrants or who lack documentation can use Title X clinics because the clinics do not require verification of the immigration status of their patients. Title X clinics are also bound by federal law to provide services in a linguistically appropriate manner, which is an essential component of quality reproductive health care for Latinas who have limited proficiency in English.



NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Clinics that are funded by Title X also help Latinas prevent unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and breast and cervical cancer. Approximately 50% of pregnancies among Latinas are unintended, and almost half of these pregnancies end in abortion. Latinas contract HIV at 5 times the rate of white women, and Latinas have higher rates of Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis than white women. In addition, Latinas do not access cervical and breast cancer screenings at the same rate as white women. As a result, Latinas have a cervical cancer rate more than twice that of white women, as well as a higher morbidity rate from breast cancer. Title X clinics offer the preventative services that are necessary to reduce the devastating reproductive health disparities facing Latinas.

OVERVIEW OF THE TITLE X PROGRAM

What is the Title X Program?

Title X of the Public Health Service Act is a 40 year-old law that authorizes federal funding for family planning services. Under Title X, federal grants are distributed to federal Department of Health and Human Services Regional Offices, which then subcontract with local clinics that provide reproductive health care services. There are approximately 4,600 clinics throughout the country that are supported by Title X funds.

Who Do Title X Clinics Serve?

Title X clinics provide services to over 4.7 million women each year. The majority of Title X clinic patients are uninsured and low-income. Title X clinics disproportionately serve young women and women of color. Approximately 28% of Title X clinic clients are Latina.

What Reproductive Health Care Services do Title X Clinics Provide?

Title X clinics offer a range of reproductive health and family planning services. For example, clinics provide gynecological exams, contraception, counseling, pap tests, breast exams, and screenings for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. All services are provided confidentially. Title X clinics are prohibited from using Title X funds for abortions.

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