

# Title X Fact Sheet

March 11, 2019



## Community Health Centers

California's Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide high-quality comprehensive care to 6.9 million people – that's 1 in 6 Californians. CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, who advocates on behalf of California's 1,330 community health centers, is heavily invested in advocating for the rights of CHC patients.

## Changes to Title X

The recently-released final rule includes changes to the Title X program that represent a dramatic departure from the way that Congress intended for health centers and other providers to participate in the Title X program.

The changes will:

- Deny women information about all of their health options
- Delay patient access to reproductive health care
- Disrupt the provider-patient relationship
- Deter teens from accessing care
- Divert resources to groups that do not provide a broad range of birth control methods
- Disproportionately affect communities of color
- Reverse the progress we've made in reducing unintended pregnancy rates

## Community Health Centers & Title X

When Congress created the Title X program in 1970, the intent was to reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancy through a targeted, comprehensive family planning program, and the program has been a resounding success.

Health centers are important participants in the Title X program: nationally, roughly one-quarter of all Title X delivery sites are federally qualified health centers. In California, 42 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) receive Title X funding which supports the delivery of quality family planning and related services at 218 different FQHC sites.

## Impact of Title X Changes

The new rule is going to have a devastating impact on access to care. Its onerous requirements create barriers to service by essentially eliminating the participation of some current Title X providers. Eliminating those providers will have a substantial impact on access to family planning services throughout California, particularly in rural areas where access to care is already problematic.

The other troubling portion of this rule prohibits any Title X provider from counseling about or referring for abortion services, even when the patient specifically requests information about abortion. Physicians serving in community health centers pride themselves on providing comprehensive health care, which includes information about all medical options. This ban on counseling and referral services would force CHC physicians to provide less-than-complete medical advice, and many health centers will choose to cease participating in Title X rather than force their physicians to provide incomplete care.

Lastly, the published regulation severely impacts Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is the provider of choice to hundreds of thousands of women and men who seek out a variety of essential healthcare services like breast examinations and cervical cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and infections, contraception and family planning, urinary tract infection treatments, and other primary care services.

Any policies that eliminate or diminish Planned Parenthood's role in our state's comprehensive network of care would put untenable stress on remaining health centers. CHCs do not have the capacity statewide to absorb Planned Parenthood's Title X patients.

**We ask you to continue to stand up for Title X and other vital women's health programs under attack by the Trump Administration.**