

***TITLE V OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT/SLAITS SURVEY***

Title V of the Social Security Act provides the basis for public health programs funded by the federal government. It is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

The MCHB administers seven major programs:

- The Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant
- The Healthy Start Initiative
- Emergency Medical Services for Children Program
- The Abstinence Education Program
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
- Poison Control Centers Program

The Office of the MCHB Director includes Communications and the Offices of Program Development, Operations and Management, Data and Information Management and the HRSA Office of Women's Health.

- The Bureau consists of several divisions which include:
- Division of State and Community Health
- Division of Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health
- Division of Perinatal Systems and Women's Health
- Division of Research Training and Education

Like Medicaid (Title XIX), Title V is a federal/state-matching program. For every \$4 provided by the federal government, \$3 must be matched through state funds. A portion of the Block Grant, (15%) is used to provide administrative services and funding for innovative activities under the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS).



The Division of Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs has two branches:

- Integrated Services Branch
- Genetics Services Branch

The Integrated Services Branch promotes leadership and support for the development and implementation of innovative, replicable models of community-based care for children with special health care needs in six program areas:

- Medical Home
- Financing/Managed Care
- Family/Professional Partnership/Cultural Competence
- Healthy and Ready to Work
- Community Integrated Services
- Universal Newborn Hearing and Screening

The Genetics Services Branch facilitates the early identification of children with genetic conditions and works to increase public and professional awareness of how genetic diseases affect health in order to create a more responsive system of care. It administers five program areas:

- Newborn Screening
- Emerging Issues in Genetics
- Improving Genetic Literacy
- Health Professionals Training
- Hemophilia and Other Chronic Diseases

Until recently, the Title V programs in the states operated a clinic-based system of care. Now Title V programs usually provide care coordination services. Some states continue to provide clinical services. These services are usually provided in collaboration with Medicaid and private insurance.

Under the law, Title V can bill patients/families for services provided using a sliding fee scale based on income. Most services are free of charge, unless the patient has Medicaid or private insurance. There is a recent requirement that applicants denied SSI be referred to Title V.

States choose the types of services they provide and define who is eligible for those services. States must submit to the MCHB when applying for their block grant (funding) documentation on how many children have special health care need and how they will receive services. The federal regional offices conduct a block grant review every three to five years. Family Voices encourages and trains families to participate in the block grant review process.

**The National Survey on Children with Special Health Care Needs, (SLAITS):**

The National Survey on Children with Special Health Care Needs, (SLAITS) is sponsored by MCHB in partnership with the National Center for Health Statistics and is the first survey to identify children with special health care needs using a common measure. The survey provides both state and national estimates on the prevalence of children with special health care needs as well as valuable information about the population of children and families. This information is helpful to the Title V Block Grant process.

The survey objectives include:

- State level prevalence estimates for CSHCN's
- State level needs assessment
- State level insurance estimates for all children

For more information about the National Survey, please contact Family Voices Staff Member: Nora Wells (617-236-7210; [nwells@fcsn.org](mailto:nwells@fcsn.org))