

Title V 5-Year Needs Assessment

Every 5 years States (typically State Health Departments) must carry out a significant statewide Needs Assessment to include in their Title V Block Grant Applications,* due July, 2005. A goal of the Needs Assessment is to strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts at federal, state, and local levels. The Needs Assessment is intended as an on-going, continuous activity in which States identify the need for:

- Preventive and primary care services for pregnant women, mothers, and infants
- Preventive and primary care services for children
- Services for children with special health care needs

The Needs Assessment must include descriptions of methods to: assess needs, examine capacity, select priorities, set targets, identify activities, allocate resources, and monitor progress.

The Three I's: What Families Can Contribute to the 5-Yr Needs Assessment

- Ideas. . .about what data to collect, priorities, who to collect data from, methods to use
- Information, data. . .especially if you or other families already collect information that might be useful
- Insights. . .about what the findings look like from a family perspective

Background

- Learn about the specific requirements for the 5-Year Needs Assessment.
 - Go to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau website, which administers the Title V Block Grant: <ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/blockgrant/bgguideforms.pdf> The Needs Assessment requirements and process begin on page 24.
- Find out how the process is being carried out in your state.
 - Talk to your MCH or CSHCN Director
- Ask how families are included. . . or might be. (Note that States must describe, in their Title V Block Grant Reports this year, how citizens and families are involved in the Needs Assessment process.)

Needs Assessment Content and Process

Ask about the vision your State has for the Needs Assessment as well as specifics about some of the kinds of data/information the State intends to collect:

- Ask what kinds of data are being collected now, what data the State plans to collect, how they will collect or gather it.
- Suggest what kinds of data/information families would like to see collected - what's important to families

- Data will come from many sources, likely some from families themselves via questionnaires, focus groups, key informant interviews, public forums, and other methods.
 - How will the topics and questions be determined?
 - How important and relevant will the questions seem; how burdensome or intrusive ?
 - What isn't being asked that should be?
 - How will families who participate receive information about findings?
- States sometimes contract with family organizations to carry out parts of the Needs Assessment

Analysis of Findings

- What process will States use to deliberate about the data and its significance?
- Can interested families be part of this process?
- If needed, will there be assistance to understand the technical language of data, research, and statistics?

How States will Use the Findings

- Foremost, as part of their 5 Year Needs Assessment Report for their Block Grant
- To determine and shape program activities
- To determine their 10 State Priority Needs and their 7-10 State Performance Measures
- And likely for many other purposes

How Can Families Learn about States' Findings?

- Will families know about the Needs Assessment and the data being collected so they can plan for its use?
- How will this be publicized and made available within the State?
- Will there be public forums or other opportunities for families and others to discuss and ask questions about the Needs Assessment findings?
- By fall, 2005 the State's Block Grant Application, including the Needs Assessment, should be available on the Title V website:

<https://performance.hrsa.gov/mchb/mchreports/search/search.asp>

How Families Might Use the Information

- To set priorities and plan for your own or other family organizations' activities
- As part of grant applications you may be submitting
- To begin discussions about involvement with your State's on-going Needs Assessment
- To advocate for the needs of families in your state!

Most importantly consider,

How the data and information collected in the Needs Assessment will be used to improve care, services, and policies for children and families

*For further information about Title V Block Grants, see *Getting to Know Title V*, in print or in PowerPoint. This and other publications appear on the Family Voices website: www.familyvoices.org

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