

Women's Health Matters!

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- New Jersey's family planning agencies provide reproductive and other health care services to over 136,000 women and men. These agencies are often the gateway to primary health care services for low income and working families who would otherwise not seek traditional preventative health care.
- Family planning saves taxpayers \$4 for every \$1 spent. The Governor's proposed budget calls for the elimination of \$7.5 million in family planning funding. So, taxpayers will be on the hook for an additional \$30 million that will need to be spent in Medicaid.
- The administration also withdrew a waiver application that would have extended Medicaid coverage for family planning services in order to reach individuals who otherwise would not be eligible. Since the Federal Government reimburses New Jersey Medicaid expenditures for family planning at the favorable rate of 90%, this program would have moved some patients previously paid for by 100% state dollars into a program where their services were paid for with 90% federal dollars.
- The waiver was specifically designed to save the state money and leverage more federal dollars. An investment of \$1 million by the state would have brought in \$9 million in federal money.
- It is important to be absolutely clear - the waiver application and the eliminated state budget line do not support abortion services.
- As reproductive health care providers, our goal is reducing the number of unintended and mistimed pregnancies, and improving maternal health and newborn outcomes.
- The best way to prevent unintended pregnancies and promote healthy families is to invest in family planning, and ensure that women and families have access to affordable, quality reproductive health care.
- Since the 1970's, New Jersey has provided critical funds that reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. New Jersey already ranks 36th in public support for reproductive health care and this proposed budget will put us back even further.
- In 2009, New Jersey family planning health centers helped prevent 39,782 unintended pregnancies and 18,896 abortions. As a result, New Jersey saved well over \$150,000,000 in one year (\$142,282,906 savings in Medicaid costs for prenatal care & delivery and \$9,893,945 savings in Medicaid abortion costs).
- Investing in women's health is not only good policy, it helps save money.
- As the state struggles with an unprecedented economic down turn, we must continue to adequately support New Jersey's family planning services. These programs provide basic health care services to so many New Jersey women and men, many of whom have recently lost their jobs and their health insurance.