

September 3, 2021

Marc Garufi, Chief, Public Health Branch, Health Programs
Hester Grippando, Program Examiner
Sarah Sisaye, Program Examiner
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Title X Family Planning Program in the FY 2023 President's Budget

Dear Marc, Hester, and Sarah:

The 55 below organizations represent millions of health care providers, researchers, program administrators, community advocates, and, most importantly, people who seek publicly funded family planning services. We urge you to allocate at least \$512 million for the Title X family planning program in the president's fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget as one key provision of your work to promote health equity, racial and economic justice, and sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice in the Biden-Harris administration.

As you know, Title X is the nation's family planning program, supporting a diverse group of providers across the country that offer crucial reproductive health care. The network has suffered catastrophic losses over the past two years, due in large part to the Trump administration's 2019 program rule and the COVID-19 pandemic. Data released in April 2021 show that only 1.5 million people received Title X-supported services in 2020, down more than 60% from 2018,ⁱ and six states have had no Title X-funded providers for more than two years. All Planned Parenthood affiliates that had previously participated in the program have also gone without this crucial support for that same period. The administration has consistently recognized these challenges, from moving quickly to issue new proposed rulemaking for the program to calling out the importance of Title X in the list of budget priorities released in April 2021. In addition, Congress has demonstrated strong support for rebuilding the network, including passing \$50 million for Title X in the American Rescue Plan.ⁱⁱ

Moving into FY 2023, Title X will need substantial federal investment to both rebuild the network from these challenges and make publicly funded family planning and sexual health services available to millions more people. As of August 2021, the Office of

Population Affairs (OPA) anticipates finalizing the new Title X rule in the fall and issuing Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for the entire country to compete for Title X funds to be spent under the new regulation, with funds to be distributed in April 2022. Grantees and subrecipients need a sustained investment to increase access to care, and the administration can place the program in a strong position for FY 2023 funding by prioritizing the program in the forthcoming budget.

While the FY 2022 process is not yet complete, Congress has taken action to significantly increase funding for Title X, with the House passing a Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill that included \$400 million for Title X.ⁱⁱⁱ If that level is adopted by the Senate and signed by the president, it would be the largest increase in the program's history. In addition, 142 members of the House and 46 Senators signed letters requesting that appropriators allocate \$512 million for the program. To build on that progress, we urge OMB to adopt that \$512 million recommendation for its FY 2023 budget. This request is based on the latest federal research on Title X – in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OPA found that the program would require annual appropriations of \$737 million just to serve women in need of Title X-supported services, and an increase to \$512 million brings us halfway to that goal (based on FY21 funding of \$286.5 million).^{iv}

The administration should also take this important step as part of its overarching plan to promote health equity and racial and economic justice. Equalizing access to high-quality, affordable preventive health care, including family planning and sexual health services, is a key part of achieving those vital goals. In many communities, Title X providers are often the only source of health care for people with no or low incomes, and 60% of female patients seeking contraception at a Title X-funded health center say it is the only health care provider they see all year.^v In addition, in 2019, 24% of people receiving Title X-supported services were Black, 33% were Latinx, and 64% had incomes at or below the federal poverty line, demonstrating that Title X-funded health centers play an essential role in the health care safety net in communities across the country.^{vi}

We look forward to working with you to increase access to family planning and sexual health care. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Weiss, Director, Policy & Communications at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, at lweiss@nfprha.org or 202-417-4867.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS United
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Atheists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Public Health Association
American Social Health Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black AIDS Institute
Catholics for Choice
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Reproductive Rights
Endocrine Society
Guttmacher Institute
Healthy Teen Network
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
HIV Medicine Association
Howard Brown Health
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
Medical Students for Choice
NARAL Pro-Choice America
NASTAD
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Medical Association
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families

National Women's Law Center
National Women's Health Network
Nurses For Sexual and Reproductive Health
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Power to Decide
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Reproductive Health Access Project
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
The AIDS Institute
The Center for HIV Law and Policy
The Well Project
Treatment Action Group
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

ⁱ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services, "Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services," 86 Federal Register 19812, 19817 (April 15, 2021).

ⁱⁱ *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*. Public Law 117-2. *U.S. Statutes at Large* 135 (2021).

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Congress, House, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2022, HR 4502. 117th Congress, 1st Session.

^{iv} Euna August et al, "Projecting the Unmet Need and Costs for Contraception Services After the Affordable Care Act," *American Journal of Public Health* 106:2 (February 2016). doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2015.302928.

^v Meghan Kavanaugh, "Use of Health Insurance Among Clients Seeking Contraceptive Services at Title X Funded Facilities in 2016," Guttmacher Institute (June 2018). <https://www.guttmacher.org/journals/psrh/2018/06/use-health-insurance-among-clients-seekingcontraceptive-services-title-x>.

^{vi} Christina Fowler et al, "Family Planning Annual Report: 2019 National Summary," Office of Population Affairs (September 2020). <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/title-x-fpar-2019-national-summary.pdf>.