



Federal Title X Funding for Colleges and Universities

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ACHA member institutions can receive federal Title X family planning funding, and several of them already have. Here is some information about the program to consider when deciding whether it may be right for your institution to pursue.

Note: *While this federal funding does not cover abortion services, it has been caught up in the abortion rights debate, with pushes to prohibit any organization that performs abortion services from being eligible to receive the funds.*

What Does Title X Do?

Federal Title X funding is designed to prioritize low-income and uninsured families (including those who are not eligible for Medicaid) who might not have proper access to family planning services, including counseling and contraceptive services. The funding aims to promote positive birth outcomes by allowing individuals to decide the number and spacing of their children. The Title X Family Planning Program is administered by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA), which provides funds to networks of community-based clinics that provide contraceptive services, related counseling, and other preventive health services. Although Title X funds are utilized for family planning purposes, it is important to note that by law, “none of the funds appropriated” for Title X may be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.¹

Funding is also used to support the following:

- Training grants
- Research grants
- Informational and educational grants

The College Health Community Access to Title X Funding

Title X funding is available to “all public or nonprofit private entities to assist in the establishment and operation of voluntary family planning projects.”² Typically, Title X family planning funding has gone first to state and local health departments, who may then distribute these funds to community-based clinics. However, OPA has previously awarded Title X grants to university health systems, such as when it awarded \$3,465,000 to the University of Puerto Rico for utilization in their Medical Sciences Campus during FY22³.

¹Title X Statutes, Regulations, and Legislative Mandates. Office of Population Affairs. (n.d.). Retrieved May 17, 2022, from <https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/title-x-service-grants/title-x-statutes-regulations-and-legislative-mandates>

²Title X – Population Research and Voluntary Family Planning Program. Office of Population Affairs. (July 2020). https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/title-x-statute-attachment-a_0.pdf

³FY2022 Title X Service Grant Awards. (n.d.). Office of Population Affairs. Retrieved May 17, 2022, from <https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/title-x-service-grants/current-title-x-service-grantees/fy2022-title-X-service-grant-awards>

College health centers may be eligible to qualify for funding under Title X if a specific grant allows applicants to be institutions of higher education (IHEs). Below, we provide examples of grants established under Title X that allow IHEs, and thereby their college health centers, to apply for funding. Since the funding is distributed through competitive grant programs, interested parties will need to monitor specific Title X funding announcements for eligibility requirements and permissible uses.

Title X Funding Eligibility

To be eligible for Title X funding, organizations must provide a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods and services, including:

- Contraceptive education, counseling, and methods (includes hormonal methods, fertility awareness-based methods, barrier methods, abstinence; and/or permanent sterilization)
- Services centered around pre-conception health and achieving pregnancy (includes infertility services; STI prevention, education, screening, and treatment; HIV testing and referral; and screening for substance use disorders and referrals)
- Pregnancy testing, diagnosis, and counseling

Title X family planning clinics receive funding from the Title X Family Planning Program to provide individuals with comprehensive family planning and preventative health services. Title X entities must be receiving Title X funding at the time of 340B registration—not prospectively. The law specifies that the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make grants available to local state health authorities.⁴ However, there have been cases in which grants were awarded through third-party organizations. As an example, the University of Hawaii was given Title X funding through a partnership with Essential Access Health, which is the primary Title X grantee for California and Hawaii. Partnering with awarded grantees may increase access to and success in receiving future funding.

Examples of Title X Grants Available to Colleges and Universities

Title X Family Planning Research Grants:

This funding is available for research and studies into making Title X family planning services more feasible and equitably accessible. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is specifically looking for new data on innovative strategies for equitable access, the impact of telehealth on Title X services, trends and current reach of existing family planning clinics, and trends in client needs. Applicants may select more than one field to research.

Research to Practice Center Grants for Adolescent Health Promotion in Order to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy:

This funding is intended for programs that seek to convert existing research into working practices that will ultimately reduce unintended teen pregnancy. Research must be focused on one of the five following areas: engaging parents and caregivers, expanding meaningful youth engagement, system level approaches in adolescent health and teen pregnancy prevention, trauma-informed inclusive care and programming, and working with youth-serving professionals serving the most vulnerable youth.

Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Evaluation and Research Grants:

These grants are available for research projects that study “new questions” in teen pregnancy and adolescent health, specifically those which impact efficiency and effectiveness or reduce existing disparities. Studies must be conducted within a 1–2-year period. Desired areas of investigation are: Identifying factors that improve quality

⁴ 84 Stat. 1504 U.S. Statutes at Large. <https://www.govinfo.gov/link/statute/84/1504?link-type=pdf>

and reduce disparities, identifying core program components essential for teen pregnancy prevention, studying the impacts of making adaptations to programs, exploring the impact of collective / multidisciplinary collaborative programs, and scaling and testing new innovations.

Additional Information

For additional information, you can visit <https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/title-x-service-grants> and reach out to your state Title X administration office, which is often the state's department of public health.

