

**Tip Sheet**

# How can Title V MCH Programs Support Pediatric Health Care Professionals in Addressing Social Determinants of Health?

## Background

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, 4th Edition, includes 12 health promotion themes for pediatric health care professionals (PCHPs) that highlight the health promotion interventions at specific developmental stages, from birth to early adulthood. Included in these is the *Promoting Lifelong Health for Families and Communities* theme, which describes how PHCPs can integrate social determinants of health (SDoH) within child and adolescent well-visits. The following graphic highlights 3 suggestions for PHCPs as “calls to action” and suggests the role that Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs can play in supporting the clinical system in their efforts to implement these strategies. Each call to action includes a relevant example of how Title V programs are supporting PHCPs and their larger clinical systems to address SDoH.

## Potential Roles for Title V MCH Programs



### Related Call to Action:

#### **1) Identify Strengths & Protective Factors**

While PHCPs work to identify their patients' strengths and protective factors, Title V programs can consider long-term strategies to support the proliferation of protective factors for all children and families, especially among those with the greatest needs. One strategy to consider is partnering with local organizations to support their existing work in building community strengths in the spaces where children and adolescents spend their time. Review AMCHP's issue brief, [Recommendations for Title V Programs: Co-Creating an Equitable Future with the Wisdom of Communities](#) for guidance on how best to achieve meaningful and equitable partnerships with communities.



## Title V MCH Programs in Action

Joyful Food Markets is a collaboration between the District of Columbia's (DC) Title V program and a local community-based organization, [Martha's Table](#). No-cost food markets are held at select schools in DC to promote healthy eating and provide families with free fresh fruits and vegetables. By partnering with Martha's Table, DC's Title V program closely engages community members and leaders, improves access to nutritious foods, and supports building on existing community strengths (i.e. existing resources and processes that enhance individual and community well-being\*). Martha's Table receives funding and programmatic support from DC's Title V programs that is needed to successfully execute the Joyful Food Markets.

### Related Call to Action:

#### **2) Establish Shared Decision Making**

Title V programs have a long history of prioritizing workforce development to improve child and adolescent health outcomes. Title V programs can consider connecting and partnering with their [state's AAP chapter](#) to plan for and provide training on motivational interviewing, an evidence-based method for shared decision-making in clinical settings. Title V programs may also consider leveraging their Interagency Agreements with their state's Medicaid program to provide quality improvement opportunities for motivational interviewing or other evidence-based shared decision-making methods in the clinical setting. Additionally, Title V programs can consider maximizing partnerships with AAP chapters and Medicaid to amplify dissemination of resources, such as the National Institute for Children's Health's [Powerful Partnerships: A Handbook for Families and Providers Working Together to Improve Care](#) to professional networks.

## Title V MCH Programs in Action

- As a piece of their 2021 workforce development plans, the [Florida Title V program](#) plans to partner with Florida's Children's Medical Services (CMS) to explore implementation of regular provider trainings on motivational interviewing.
- Iowa's 2021 Title V Block Grant action plan includes several strategies for improving the quality of adolescent well-visits across the state, including exploring a partnership with the Iowa chapter of the AAP to provide training to PHCPs on the use of motivational interviewing.

\* Black, A. and Hughes, P. The Identification and Analysis of Indicators of Community Strength and Outcomes. Accessed March 15, 2021 via [https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05\\_2012/no.3.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/no.3.pdf)

**Related Call to Action:**  
**3) Identify and Build on Community Supports**

Title V programs can consider leveraging the efforts of their state's Children's Medical Services (CMS) agency, United Way, Help Me Grow (HMG) program (if applicable), and other relevant stakeholders to create an online, centralized referral resource hub for professionals and providers. Referral hubs should include links to resources that address a variety of SDoHs including (but not limited to) unstable housing, poor transportation, un/under employment, barriers to quality education, substance use, intimate partner violence, and improve access to important needs such as nutritious food, childcare, and specialized health care.



### **Title V MCH Programs in Action**

- The New Mexico (NM) Title V program partners closely with their state CMS agency to support the [NM Medical Home Portal](#), which provides accurate and comprehensive information on health and relevant community resources for families in English and Spanish. In addition, professionals can utilize this portal to make referrals. Through several partnerships, including with the New Mexico Pediatric Society, the NM Title V program is promoting and disseminating the medical home portal to PHCPs across the state.
- Leveraging the state's HMG program and partnership among Minnesota (MN) Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services, professionals have access to [MN's Help Me Connect Resource \(HMC\)](#). This online, one-stop space helps inform and connect for Minnesota families who are pregnant or parenting children (0 to 8 years of age) to a full range of resources. The state has also utilized preschool development funding to support a HMC coordinator position dedicated to disseminating this resource to professionals as a referral tool.

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