

HELPING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ZIKA:

MCHB's Response



A COMPREHENSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

The spread of the Zika virus in the United States and territories requires a comprehensive public health response. Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects, especially affecting the neurological system. Children exposed to Zika virus prenatally meet the definition of children with special healthcare needs, regardless of whether they are symptomatic at birth. The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) has made addressing this public health threat a top priority.



FUNDING ACTIVITIES

HRSA/MCHB works closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other U.S. Government partners as part of the federal response to the Zika virus threat. MCHB laid the groundwork for addressing the spread of the virus through the following actions:

- **Ensuring Access to Comprehensive Services:** MCHB awarded \$18 million to the Departments of Health of Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands for the Zika Maternal and Child Health Services Program to ensure access to services and comprehensive medical homes for women, children and families affected by Zika virus.
- **Puerto Rico** was awarded about \$16 million and proposed to assist with a comprehensive Zika response that ensures infants and toddlers exposed to Zika virus during pregnancy are identified, screened, assessed and monitored until age three. The proposed activities aim to strengthen workforce capacity through availability of pediatric providers, improving health information and telehealth technology, and providing family-to-family support services for families impacted by Zika.
- **United States Virgin Islands** was awarded about \$1,000,000 and proposed to enhance the capacity of current home visiting efforts to improve access to services for infants and children born to mothers who tested positive for Zika virus infection during pregnancy and their families.
- **American Samoa** was awarded about \$1,000,000 and proposed to assist with the development of a Zika care coordination system for mothers and their infants to be delivered primarily through Zika Client Navigators and improving access to transportation. In addition, health providers will receive training to conduct developmental assessments and provide referrals of children born to mothers infected with Zika.

■ **Enhancing Provider Education and Training on Caring for Children Exposed to Zika Virus:**

- MCHB, in collaboration with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care, awarded \$350,000 to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Center for Medical Home Implementation. This funding will support health professional education and training for pediatric clinicians to expand their capacity to provide family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally effective care for children impacted by Zika. MCHB also awarded a two-year supplement of \$250,000 to AAP to enhance the knowledge and competency of pediatric clinicians caring for children exposed to Zika in Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and other territories.
- MCHB awarded a total of \$1 million to existing Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) grantees at the University of Miami, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Trustees of Indiana University to implement the Health Professional Support Program for Children with/or At-Risk for Congenital Zika Virus Infection. This program will provide workforce development and interdisciplinary clinical consultation to health professionals caring for children with Zika in Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

■ **Supporting Family Engagement:**

- MCHB awarded a total of \$450,000 to the Puerto Rico Department of Health, Parent to Parent by Apoyo a Padres de Niños con Impedimentos, Inc. and Virgin Islands Advocacy, Inc. to implement the Optimizing Family Support Program for Children with/or At-Risk for Congenital Zika Virus Infection to support family engagement by providing information, education, and technical assistance.
- MCHB awarded \$250,000 to Family Voices, Inc. for the National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships to expand training and assistance on family-to-family support, referral assistance, and distribution of Zika-specific, culturally appropriate information to families.

For more information about HRSA's response to Zika, and to access HHS Resources for Health Centers, Healthcare Providers, and Health Professionals, visit: <https://www.hrsa.gov/zika/index.html>.