

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FY 2011 BUDGET: HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The FY 2011 budget reflects the President's commitment to protecting and improving the nation's health. It calls for the comprehensive health care reform that women and their families urgently need, extends funding for health programs that help those most affected by the economic recession, and increases support for programs that provide critical women's health services. Unfortunately, however, the budget leaves barriers to abortion care in federal health programs intact.

- The President's budget reiterates the need for **health care reform** that will provide stability to those who have health insurance, expand coverage to the uninsured, and improve the nation's economic security. Specifically, the budget estimates that the passage of comprehensive health reform will lead to a \$150 billion reduction in the deficit by 2020. To continue laying the groundwork for comprehensive health reform, the budget makes investments that strengthen the health care provider workforce, promote prevention and wellness, expand the health care safety net, and advance the adoption of health information technology.
- In addition to extending the COBRA assistance program described [elsewhere](#), to help keep women and families insured, the President's budget expands another important health provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with its proposed \$25.5 billion six-month **extension of the Medicaid funding increase** (i.e. an increase in the federal matching rate for state Medicaid programs, or "FMAP"). Increasing the FMAP eases strain on state budgets and protects access to this critical health insurance program, which covers 17 million low-income women nationwide.
- The budget increases funding for several **programs that provide essential reproductive and preventive health care** for women. Highlights include:
 - A \$10 million increase for the **Title X family planning** program, which provides comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services to low-income women. Though a welcome increase given the tight budget climate, the additional funding is not enough to meet current needs.
 - An \$11 million funding boost for the **Maternal and Child Health block grant** that provides prenatal, primary, and preventive health care to women and children.
 - An increase of over \$19 million in grants for medically accurate, age-appropriate programs to **prevent teen pregnancy**, and an allocation of \$50 million in mandatory funds for States, territories, and tribes to use for teen pregnancy prevention.

- We are disappointed that the President did not indicate a commitment to removing the multiple **restrictions on access to abortion care** for women with government-sponsored health insurance. These harmful barriers continue to leave women in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), Peace Corps, Indian Health Service, and Medicaid without access to the comprehensive reproductive health care they need.
- More than one in ten women care for a family member that is chronically ill, disabled or elderly—these caregivers often have multiple responsibilities and struggle with economic and health challenges of their own. To ease burdens on family caregivers, the President’s budget proposes an increase of over \$102 million for programs that **support families caring for aging relatives** with services such as counseling, training, and respite care.