

## **Wisconsin Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association**

Considerations to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
for a Medicaid Family Planning State Plan Amendment April 2, 2010

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Wisconsin believes family planning should be an integrated component of primary preventive care. These health services and education should be available to all.

Wisconsin law [253.07(2)(a)] Requires a Plan for a statewide Family Planning Program Plan.

The Secretary of Wisconsin's Department of Health Services has established a Family Planning Council to coordinate the plan's design and insure implementation.

The Family Planning Council brings key leadership of primary preventive care together with departmental leadership to assure that family planning services are acceptable and accessible.

Tribal Health Care

Title X Grant Recipients

Public Health Clinics

Private Clinics

Primary Health Care Association Members (FQHCs)

Title V Grant Recipients

Wisconsin statutes require a plan for a statewide system of family planning services. Recent secretaries of the Department of Health Services have established the Family Planning Council as a means of bringing family planning “stakeholders” (listed on slide) together to review and advice the Secretary on policy and practice related to family planning.

These are the major resources supporting access to sexual health care in Wisconsin.

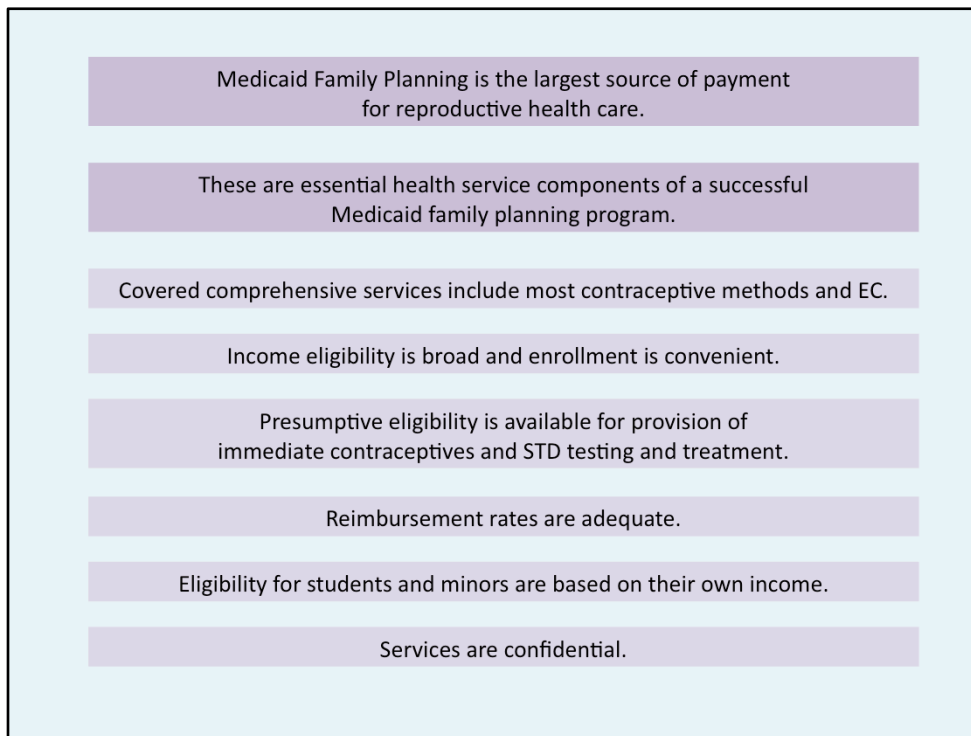
Federal Medicaid Family Planning Funds

Private Health Insurance and Wellness Benefits

Title X and 340B Public Sector Drug Pricing

Wisconsin Public Health and Maternal and Child Health Funds

Wisconsin's successful, accessible, confidential and affordable family planning program has many sources of funding and support. Funding includes state general purpose revenues as well as federal grants, patient fees, and reimbursement. Through its fee-for-service reimbursement structure, Medicaid is the largest source of support for subsidized contraceptive and STD care in the family planning program.



The Medicaid Family Planning Waiver Program, implemented in January of 2003, is widely used and is extremely successful in preventing unintended pregnancies and saving taxpayer dollars. Estimated savings to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are \$487,000,000 over the first five years of the program. The primary reasons for the program's success are its inclusive eligibility criteria and fair reimbursement rates. For examples:

- Income eligibility is up to 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Confidentiality is protected to encourage participation.
  - \*Eligibility for students and minors is determined at their own income.
- Enrollees are able to receive services immediately.
- A comprehensive range of contraceptive methods is available.

**Essential structural components of a Wisconsin State Plan Amendment for Medicaid Family Planning Services.**

A formally established Department of Health Services Family Planning Council including key leadership in public health, family planning, and primary preventive health care.

A written commitment to integrating and normalizing sexual health care and education through fostering public-private partnerships.

A clear commitment to the principal that all participants receiving Medicaid-paid health benefits have a right to choose a willing and qualified provider for the reproductive health services they need.

A written assurance that reimbursement rates to reproductive health care providers will be sufficient to maintain statewide access to family planning services.

The federal health care reform law that permits states to submit a permanent Medicaid Family Planning Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for authorization; therefore, we have an opportunity to maintain or improve the program. The State Plan amendment should, at minimum, maintain eligibility and the scope of services that have made our program successful. This opportunity allows Wisconsin to add health care services that may be necessary to insure a comprehensive range of contraceptive and STD care.

It is equally important, when submitting a plan amendment, to formalize the structure of a state plan in a way which will protect the program's accessibility, affordability, confidentiality, and comprehensive services coverage. For example, in Wisconsin, the Family Planning Council should be formally included in the plan amendment so that there is a permanent means to bring community health leadership advice to the Secretary. To insure that comprehensive reproductive health care services are available in all areas of a state wherein one-third of all health care agencies are sectarian, the state plan amendment should include a clear and unequivocal commitment to the principle that Medicaid participants have a right to their choice of a willing and qualified provider (including out-of-plan providers) for reproductive health care. Although Wisconsin has provided adequate reimbursement rates for services delivered by family planning clinics, the state plan amendment must guarantee that reimbursement rates for family planning services will not be less than current reimbursement rates and should not be lower than those of other comparable health care services or providers.