

TITLE X GRANTEE PROFILE: OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OCTOBER 2020



CELEBRATING TITLE X | 1970-2020

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has been a participant in Title X since the federal program's inception in 1970. With more than 50 years' experience, ODH has a rich history of providing family planning services to low-income, minority, and other specific populations that require access to affordable quality family planning services. Today, ODH's Reproductive Health and Wellness Program (RHWP) funds 43 Title X subrecipients and provides services in 58 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Ohio's RHWP administrator has been with the program for 10 years and has seen the RHWP experience significant growth. For example, the RHWP targets preconception health by developing a reproductive life plan (RLP) with every client. The RHWP administrator noted, "There are so many facets to family planning other than just birth control, and we really wanted to expand to all of those things." Services for males is another area of expanded care—in 2019, RHWP subrecipients provided reproductive health services to nearly 35,000 Ohioans, and males represented 17 percent of the clients served (higher than the national average of 11 percent).

The RHWP has not only expanded the scope of its reproductive healthcare but is also extending its reach to special populations. In April 2020, the RHWP received additional funding to increase capacity by providing services to special populations such as people with substance use disorder (SUD), incarcerated women and men, people experiencing homelessness, adolescents, LGBTQ+ clients, and others. These additional funds are also supporting collaborations with faith-based organizations across the state.

In addition to teaming with faith-based organizations, the RHWP collaborates with other state agencies and anti-trafficking coalitions to connect victims to proper healthcare and recovery resources. The RHWP was recently spotlighted in the Family Planning National Training Center newsletter, *Strengthening Responses to Human Trafficking in Ohio*, for its work related to human trafficking, including the development of a Human Trafficking Observing and Reporting Protocol. This protocol contains common indicators to identify victims and survivors, screening questions, and an algorithm to help staff determine appropriate responses.

FAST FACTS

HHS Region:	5
Year of initial Title X funding:	1970
Grantee tenure:	50 years
# of subrecipients:	43
# of service sites:	80
Website:	ODH RHWP

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Ohio is among the states hardest hit by the opioid crisis, making SUD treatment a key population need.
- Out of Ohio's 88 counties, 41 have poverty rates above the national average.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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The RHWP Clinical Training Center's (CTC) comprehensive trainings are led by a women's health nurse practitioner from Columbus Public Health. This nurse works with the CTC to develop in-depth, relevant, and responsive trainings on SUD treatment, long-acting reversible contraceptive methods (LARCs), clinic flow improvement, telehealth billing analysis, and more. Ohio's work to reduce infant mortality recently led to an opportunity for the RHWP to increase collaboration with obstetricians and gynecologists on strategies affecting healthy birth outcomes. As a result of collaborator requests, the RHWP developed and widely disseminated an RLP/LARC toolkit. In 2015, the RHWP recognized a continued need for LARC training and implemented a LARC First Initiative with four pilot sites, providing training to all subrecipients focused on client-centered counseling and educating all staff on the most effective methods of birth control. Other recent CTC trainings include:

- Fertility Awareness-Based Methods
- So, You Think You Can Code—Billing and Coding
- Inclusive LGBTQ+ Care
- Reproductive Life Plan Made Easy
- Evidence-Based Birth Control: The Facts

Clinic flow analysis and telehealth billing trainings have been particularly important during the response to COVID-19. Although ODH deemed Title X as an essential service and all RHWP clinics continued providing services, a significant number of clinic staff were pulled into emergency preparedness. As a result, several clinics decreased hours and many clients weren't scheduling or showing up for appointments. Within days of the onset of COVID-19, the RHWP began discussing telehealth. By the end of March 2020, clinics were able to access CTC trainings and provide services to clients by phone, video, curbside, and other means.

ODH is proud of how quickly Ohio's Title X service providers have been able to pivot to meet client needs. It notes that "our providers are passionate and committed to providing services to those of highest risk who need reproductive health services." ODH also expressed pride in its RHWP program administrator, who was recognized at the national level via the 2019 State Family Planning Administrator award. Learn more about ODH and the RHWP by visiting the [ODH website](#).

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Special thanks to Michelle Clark, program administrator at RHWP, for her contributions to this story.

ABOUT TITLE X

For 50 years, Title X family planning clinics have played a critical role in ensuring access to a broad range of family planning and related preventive health services for millions of low-income or uninsured individuals and others. Title X is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.

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