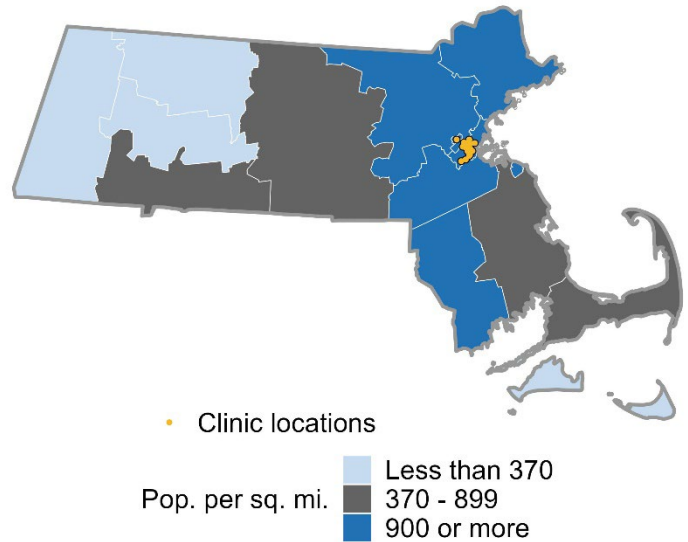


# Action for Boston Community Development

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) is a nonprofit organization that has been a Title X grant recipient since the early 1980s. It delivers services to approximately 27,000 clients through subrecipient agencies and direct service sites, including federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), community health centers, school-based health centers (SBHCs), and two hospitals in the Greater Boston Area.<sup>1</sup>







## Stats at a Glance<sup>2</sup>

- ▶ Number of family planning (FP) encounters – 20,650
- ▶ FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – 10,831 (83%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL – 12,138 (93%)
- ▶ Number of tests performed for gonorrhea – 3,828, syphilis – 793, and HIV – 3,198
- ▶ Number of female users who received a chlamydia test – 2,416 or a Pap test – 787

## Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, ABCD provides a broad range of FP services including pregnancy prevention and birth spacing, pregnancy testing and counseling, assistance to achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, and other preconception health services. The services are voluntary, confidential, and provided regardless of ability to pay.<sup>3</sup> The infographic below is an Overview of Services Offered within the ABCD network. The data shown below are not specific to any particular site but rather are representative of the broader grantee network. For information on services available at individual service sites, please refer to the [OPA clinic locator](#).

 Pregnancy assistance and counseling	 Contraceptive services	 STI services	 Other preventative health services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counseling on achieving pregnancy</li> <li>● Preconception health services</li> <li>● Pregnancy testing and counseling</li> <li>● Basic infertility services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FDA approved long-acting contraceptives</li> <li>● FDA approved short-acting contraceptives</li> <li>● Natural family planning methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STI and HIV education and counseling</li> <li>● STI and HIV screening and testing</li> <li>● STI and HIV treatment</li> <li>● STI self-testing</li> <li>● Expedited partner therapy</li> <li>● PrEP counseling and risk assessment</li> <li>● PrEP prescription services</li> <li>● PEP counseling</li> <li>● PEP prescription services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Screening for breast cancer</li> <li>● Screening for cervical cancer</li> <li>● HPV vaccinations</li> <li>● Screening for intimate partner violence</li> <li>● Screening for mental health</li> <li>● Screening for obesity</li> <li>● Screening for smoking, drug, and alcohol use</li> <li>● Adolescent-friendly health services</li> </ul>
<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Available at all service sites</li> <li>● Available at service sites and through referrals</li> <li>○ Available through referral only</li> </ul>			

<sup>1</sup> Source: Data collected by Mathematica in 2023 for the Title X Implementation Study.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR): [2022 National Summary](#).

<sup>3</sup> See the [Title X Service Grants web page](#) for more information on the requirements and regulations guiding Title X projects.

## Equity in Practice



The ABCD Family Planning Training Institute provides training on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) topics to a range of health care providers in Massachusetts including clinicians, counselors, educators, and community health workers. Many of the trainings focus on how to improve the quality of care for people facing health disparities. For example, trainings focus on topics such as providing quality sexual health education to people with developmental disabilities; providing culturally responsive reproductive health care to youth; and an HIV education training that incorporates the principles of reproductive justice and HIV. The trainings are available free to ABCD providers and offered for a small fee to other health workers. To increase access for providers, they are available virtually. ABCD also offers continuing education credits to encourage providers to do the trainings. ABCD has had a positive response from providers who have participated in these trainings and plans to continue offering them through its Title X program.

## Innovations in Practice



To help share innovative practices within its Title X network, ABCD uses a clinical advisory council to encourage subrecipients and service sites to share best practices with one another. For example, one site shared information on how to help clinicians be more comfortable recommending Depo-SubQ as an contraceptive option to clients. Another site, the X-Clinic, which serves a large LGBTQIA+ population in the greater Boston area, implemented a "tickler system" to send automatic appointment reminders to clients who test positive for an STI to come back for their follow-up appointment and for clients using PrEP to come in for their regular HIV testing.

## Did You Know?



To meet the unique SRH needs of sex workers, ABCD provides funding to the Victory Program, which conducts outreach, education and STI screening to sex workers through a mobile van that travels to six different locations in the greater Boston area. The mobile van is staffed with community health workers who help clients connect to clinical care through hospitals and clinics in ABCD's Title X network.



To improve the quality of Title X services, ABCD has monthly technical assistance meetings with service delivery sites that include the clinical leadership to identify any challenges the site might be facing, and problem-solve how to overcome that challenge. The goal of the sessions is to encourage staff to find ways to improve the quality of care they are providing in a supportive environment. ABCD also regularly communicates with subrecipients and service sites and encourages them to share challenges and best practices. If they identify challenges, ABCD helps them plan specific quality improvement projects.



ABCD partners with many entities in the community—for example, partnering with an ABCD community prevention team to increase access to SRH education and clinical services. The grantee also has an informational and educational advisory committee with a diverse group of participants including hospital administrators, youth, and faith-based organizations to ensure materials are useful and relevant for clients. The grantee continually networks with other organizations to ensure any gaps in services are identified and filled through partner networks.

## About the Title X Program

The Title X Family Planning Program, created in 1970 and authorized under Title X of the Public Health Service Act, is administered by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please refer to OPA's website.

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Web: [www.bostonabcd.org/service/healthfamily-planning](http://www.bostonabcd.org/service/healthfamily-planning)