



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

**Please put
yourself on
mute**

Conference Call with Title X Grantees to Discuss COVID19-related Questions

HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Population Affairs
Thursday, March 19, 2020
5:30pm ET

Dial in number: 888-989-0725 Participant passcode: 5466357



Important Note for Today's Call

- **Please mute your phone**
- All lines are currently OPEN due to technical and capacity issues with My Meetings
- Able to download slides now through My Meetings
- Recording and slides will be available after the call



Agenda for Today's Call

- COVID-19 Update and Resources
- Grants management reminders
- Answers to Common Grantee Questions
- Grantee sharing – additional questions and new ideas
- TA resources available



COVID-19 Update

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

- Best source for up-to-date information about COVID-19
 - General information
 - Resources for the community
 - Updates on COVID-19 cases across the U.S.
 - Resources for healthcare professionals
- Can sign up for email alerts



Grants Management Reminders

- Include your OPA Project Officer and Grants Management Specialist on all communication about your grant to ensure fastest response
- Include your grant number on all correspondence, including emails



Answering Common Grantee Questions



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Questions – Funding & Paying Staff

- **Will my funding be decreased because of COVID-19?**
 - We do not anticipate any decreased to your grant awards due to COVID-19
- **Can we continue to pay our staff and subs even if they can't provide programs/services as a result of COVID-19?**
 - Follow your current HR policies. We anticipate specific guidance soon.



Questions – Carryover & No Cost Extensions

- **If we had activities planned that had to be postponed as a result of COVID-19 (e.g., community events, non-emergency clinical procedures), can we request to complete those activities as a part of a future carryover or NCE?**
 - If your grant is scheduled to end in 2020, you can ask for a NCE.
 - If your grant is continuing for another year, you can ask for a carryover.
- **What timeline should we propose for a carryover request if we're not sure how long this issue will last and therefore don't know the period of time we'll need?**
 - You can submit a carryover request at any time and, if carryover funds are awarded, they'll be added to your Year 2 grant award and you would have until the end of Year 2 to complete the activities



Question – Paying Fees from Canceled Events

- **If we had to cancel planned events and are now being charged cancelation fees or loosing our deposit, can we use our grant funds to pay these costs?**
 - Most likely yes, your grant funds may cover the cost of non-refundable fees/deposits associated with grant project activities that have had to be canceled/postponed. Please contact us with specific details.



Question – Inability to Reach Performance Goals

- **Will we be penalized for not meeting our performance goals if we can't implement program/services as a result of COVID-19?**
 - Performance measures should still be reported with the specific impact of the COVID-19 response noted. Funding level determinations for any future budget periods are based on the totality of the circumstances of the awardee's performance in previous period(s). This includes evaluating factors under the awardee's controls as well as those outside the awardee's control. We do not anticipate that missing performance goals because of participation in the response to a public health emergency would negatively impact funding.




Question – Using Funds/Staff for COVID-19 Response

- **Can we use Title X funding for COVID-19 response activities? Can our grant/sub staff be diverted to help support the State/community response?**
 - The information at the link below provides information with regard to reassigning state and local personnel working under a public health service grant during a public health emergency. Prior approval is needed from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/pahpa/section201/Pages/default.aspx>
 - We expect to receive additional guidance shortly on the flexibilities that might be associated with subawardee staff who are not state, local or tribal health personnel.



Prior approval: Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/pahpa/section201/Pages/default.aspx>



Public Health Emergency

Public Health and Medical Emergency Support for a Nation Prepared

PHE Home > Preparedness > Legal Authorities > Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) > Section 201

Search...

Guidance for Temporary Reassignment of State and Local Personnel during a Public Health Emergency

Section 319(e) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act authorizes states and tribes to request the temporary reassignment of state, tribal, or local public health department or agency personnel funded under programs authorized by the PHS Act when the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has declared a public health emergency. The following reassignment conditions apply:

- ▶ reassignment must be voluntary;
- ▶ locations for reassignment must be covered under the public health emergency; and
- ▶ any reassignment over 30 days must be reauthorized.

The [Guidance for Temporary Reassignment of State and Local Personnel during a Public Health Emergency](#) addresses this provision.

To request the temporary reassignment of personnel, a state governor, tribal leader, or designee must complete the [Request for the Temporary Reassignment of State, Tribal, and Local Personnel During a Public Health Emergency Declared by the HHS Secretary](#) and submit it to TemporaryReassignment@hhs.gov.

In the case of submission by a designee, a copy of the designation must be included. Please note that reassignments are not authorized until HHS approval is received.

Related Resources

- ▶ [Request for the Temporary Reassignment of State, Tribal, and Local Personnel During a Public Health Emergency Declared by the HHS Secretary](#)
- ▶ [Guidance for Temporary Reassignment of State and Local Personnel during a Public Health Emergency Section 319\(e\) of the Public Health Service Act](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Request for Temporary Reassignment

Requirements for Submitting Temporary Reassignment Requests

All requests for the authority to temporarily reassign personnel must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by the governor of the state or tribal organization or his/her designees to TemporaryReassignment@hhs.gov. If the governor of the state or tribal organization has authorized a “designee” a copy of the designation must be submitted with each request. A template is available for requests at www.PHE.gov/TemporaryReassignment.

At a minimum, the written request must:

- Identify each federal program from which personnel will be reassigned;
- Identify the number of appropriate personnel from each program to be reassigned;
- Assure that the current public health workforce cannot adequately and appropriately address the emergency;
- Assure that the public health emergency would be addressed more efficiently and effectively through the temporary reassignment of state or local personnel;
- Assure that the reassignment is consistent with the jurisdiction’s all-hazards public health preparedness and emergency response plan required under section 319C-1 of the PHS Act.

Email to: TemporaryReassignment@hhs.gov



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Questions – Due Date Extensions

- **Will there be an extension for the due date for open or future FOAs?**
 - At this point, we do not anticipate extending the due date. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and understand COVID-19 presents challenges for applicants.
 - Please continue to send in your questions to the Points of Contact listed on the FOAs and to the OASH Grants and Acquisitions Management Division (formerly Office of Grants Management) by email to ogm.oash@hhs.gov or OASH_Grants@hhs.gov.
 - Potential applicants are advised to subscribe to the funding opportunity announcement in grants.gov and to monitor for updates.



Questions - Telehealth

- **Would OPA consider allowing clinics to see people virtually instead of requiring patients be seen onsite for the visit to count as a Title X visit?**
 - For as long as the State of Emergency exists, OPA will allow Title X services that under normal circumstances are provided in the office, to be offered via telehealth.
 - These visits will count as Title X visits.
 - Follow State/Medicaid guidelines.



Telehealth Resources

- Effective March 17th, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it will exercise its enforcement discretion and will waive potential penalties for HIPAA violations against health care providers that serve patients through everyday communications technologies during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency
- <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/17/ocr-announces-notification-of-enforcement-discretion-for-telehealth-remote-communications-during-the-covid-19.html>.



Telehealth Resources

- Center for Connected Health Policy fact sheet on telehealth policy changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - <https://www.cchpca.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/CORONAVIRUS%20TELEHEALTH%20POLICY%20FACT%20SHEET%20MAR%2017%202020%203%20PM.pdf>
- Fact sheet on State Telehealth Laws and Reimbursement Policies
 - <https://www.cchpca.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/50%20State%20Telehealth%20Laws%20and%20Reimbursement%20Policies%20Report%20Fall%202019%20FINAL.pdf>



Questions – Adjusting Clinical Services

- **Can we pursue creative solutions that would reduce the number of people that need to be seen in clinics such as extending prescriptions for longer periods of time, etc.?**
 - Yes. You should consider solutions that will work in your community (e.g., extending length of prescriptions, providing medication via drive through, mailing medications) and work with your project officer and grants management specialist for documentation and approval.
- **If we divert Title X funds or staff to the COVID-19 response, do we need to report this back to OPA? If so, how?**
 - Yes
 - Report to your PO in progress report
 - Include how this has impacted the grant operations and clientele being served with FP services



Question – Keeping patients safe

- **What strategies can we use to keep patients safe and not expose them to COVID-19?**
 - The most important thing is to ensure the safety of your staff and your patients.
 - You should follow all guidance from CDC and your State Department of Health.
 - OPA fully supports you in considering creative solutions that will work in your community to ensure that your patients continue to receive family planning services (e.g., offering telehealth services, extending length of prescriptions, providing medication via drive through, mailing medications)
 - Please work with your project officer and grants management specialist to determine steps needed for documentation and approval.



Questions – Clinic Closures

- **If we have clinic closures, what can we do to ensure that clients receive Title X services?**
 - If feasible, consider telehealth options
 - You can create a list of other Title X clinics that are open and functioning in the community and provide the list to clients via phone/voicemail, post on website/clinic database, post outside clinic
 - If no Title X clinics are available, consider referring to other family planning clinics



Questions – Data Collection

- **What data is absolutely necessary for us to collect as we move to offer clinical services in creative ways?**
 - Please try your best to continue to collect data for FPAR. If there is specific data you are unable to collect, let your project officer know the challenges you're encountering and we will work with you.
- **Will there be an extension to the initiation of FPAR 2.0?**
 - At this point, we do not anticipate an extension to the initiation of FPAR 2.0 as a result of COVID-19, but we continue to assess the situation daily and will inform grantees if anything changes.



Question – Updating the Clinic Locator Database

- **Will a disclaimer about clinic operations be added to the clinic locator database?**
 - Yes, a disclaimer has been added to the Title X clinic locator database noting that individuals should call the clinic to ensure that it is open



Please call to ensure your clinic is open.



[Visit CDC.gov for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

FIND A FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC



ENTER CITY, STATE OR ZIPCODE

Such as "Washington, DC" or "20002"

SEARCH

Please call to ensure your clinic is open.



Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates



FIND ANOTHER CLINIC

SEARCH

Enter City, State or Zipcode

DISTANCE 25 miles

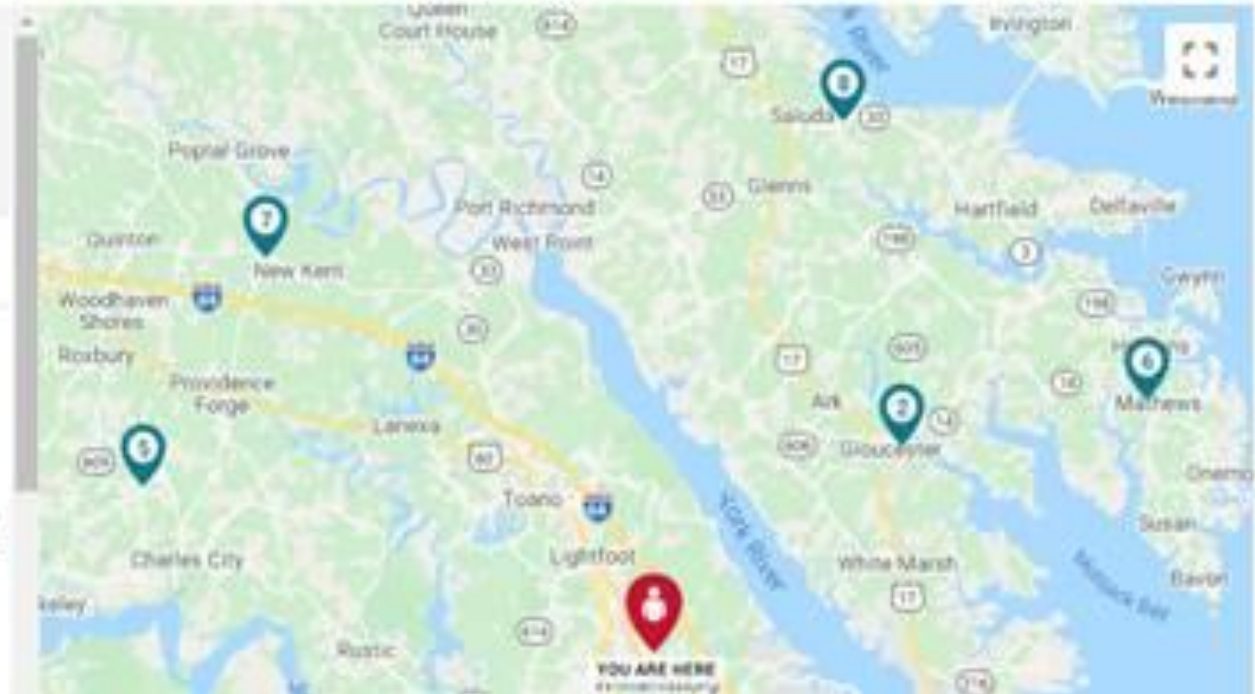
8 Locations found near "Williamsburg, VA, USA"

1. [Crater Health District Surry County Health Department](#)

474 Colonial Trail West
Dendron, VA 23883
[757-294-3185](tel:757-294-3185)

12.68 mi

[VIEW DETAILS](#)



Please call to ensure your clinic is open.



[Visit CDC.gov for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates](https://www.cdc.gov)

[Clinic Locator](#) / [Search Results](#) / CCI-Rockville



CCI-Rockville

2 Taft Court
Suite 201
Rockville, MD 20850
[240-753-7895](tel:240-753-7895)

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

Special Facility Access:

- Same Day Appointment/Walk-Ins Accepted

Mailing Address:

Services Offered:

Birth Control

- [Condoms - Male](#)

Women's / Men's Health

- Intimate Partner Violence Screeni



Update - Temporary Enforcement Discretion

- Temporarily OPA does not intend to bring enforcement actions against Title X recipients with respect to the requirement that nondirective pregnancy options counseling must be provided by physicians or advanced practice providers. See 42 C.F.R. § 59.14(b)(1)
 - (i). Specifically, for 30 days, and limited only to areas in which the COVID-19 response has pulled physicians and advanced practice providers from such tasks to focus on the COVID-19 response, OPA will not enforce this requirement.
 - During this time, non-enforcement will be contingent on appropriate documentation of the conditions set forth above.
 - In addition, OPA intends to fully enforce compliance with all other provisions of the Title X implementing regulations at 42 C.F.R. part 59, subpart A, including all other requirements related to nondirective counseling set out in section 59.14.



Update - Temporary Enforcement Discretion

- For documentation purposes, OPA expects that grantees will notify their project officer by uploading a document into GrantSolutions that requests a waiver and identifies the subrecipients who are requesting to use staff other than physicians or APPs to provide non-directive pregnancy options counseling.
- This non-enforcement policy does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.



Additional Questions

- What additional questions do you have?
- How can OPA help?



Grantee Sharing and Ideas

- What have you done to respond that could be helpful for other grantees to hear?
- What resources have you found that have been helpful?



Available Training Resources – National Clinical Training Center for Family Planning (NCTCFP)

New Web-Based Training and Resources for Clinicians

- An Introduction to the Optimal Health Model for Family Planning Clinicians (Podcast)
- Counseling Patients and Parents on the HPV Vaccine (Podcast)
- Providing Reproductive Life Planning for Non-Cisgender and Non-Heterosexual Women (Article of Interest)
- Substance Abuse and Pregnant and Parenting Women (Article of Interest)
- Fertility Apps: A New Approach to FABMs (Virtual Coffee Break/Short Webinar)
- National Reproductive Health Conference – Watch plenary and breakout sessions from past conferences on-demand!

Visit www.ctcfp.org for resources and more information



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Available Training Resources – Family Planning National Training Center (FPNTC)

New Web-Based Training and Resources

- Cultural Competency in Family Planning Care (eLearning)
- Counseling Adolescent Clients to Resist Sexual Coercion (Video/Training Guide)
- Counseling Adolescent Clients to Encourage Family Participation (Video/Training Guide)
- Training Tracking System Features for Training Administrators (Archived Webinar)
- Using the FPNTC Website to Track Your Training Completion (Job Aid)
- Adaptive Leadership for Tackling Complex Problems (Toolkit)

Connect and Learn With Other Grantee Networks

Monitoring and Supporting Subrecipients and Service Sites: A Peer Learning Group for Title X Grantees – **Registration ends March 27**

Visit www.fpntc.org for resources and more information



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Additional Resources for Title X Grantees on COVID-19

Office of Civil Rights - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/17/ocr-announces-notification-of-enforcement-discretion-for-telehealth-remote-communications-during-the-covid-19.html>.

National Telehealth Policy Resource Center

- <https://www.cchpca.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/CORONAVIRUS%20TELEHEALTH%20POLICY%20FACT%20SHEET%20MAR%2017%202020%203%20PM.pdf>
- <https://www.cchpca.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/50%20State%20Telealth%20Laws%20and%20Reibmursement%20Policies%20Report%20Fall%202019%20FINAL.pdf>

The National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Center (<https://www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/>) is working on a *Telehealth and COVID-19 Toolkit* which will be available on their website

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials - <https://www.astho.org/COVID-19/Q-and-A/>



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Additional Resources for Title X Grantees on COVID-19

National Association of Community Health Centers - <https://www.nachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NACHC-Coronavirus-FAQs-03.16.2020-1.pdf>

HRSA FAQs - <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html#service-delivery>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid FAQs - <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration - <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA-FS-3747.pdf>

Resources for Primary Care Associations and Health Centers - <https://www.pcaemac.org/covid19>



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Next Steps

- Slides and recording of today's call will be available through grantsolutions
- Developing and updating FAQ document to include questions covered today and any new questions
- Working on new TA opportunities – stay tuned



Thank you!



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www.hhs.gov/opa and www.hhs.gov/oah



Contact us: [**OPA@hhs.gov**](mailto:OPA@hhs.gov)



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Watch our videos:

https://www.youtube.com/user/TeenHealthGov?sub_confirmation=1



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