



## **TITLE X: AN ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR LATINXS<sup>1</sup>**

Title X funded providers are a trusted source of comprehensive, evidence-based, culturally-sensitive, and linguistically-appropriate health care services for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured, and/or living with low-incomes. Title X funding provides access to health care services, which otherwise may not be available, to Latinxs. Without Title X funded providers in communities across the country, there will be a scarcity of clinics where Latinxs can access contraception, life-saving care, and education on a person's full range of reproductive health care options.



### **WHAT IS THE TITLE X PROGRAM?**

- ⊗ Title X of the Public Health Service Act is a nearly 50 year-old law that authorizes federal funding for family planning services.
- ⊗ Title X is the only family planning program dedicated solely to providing comprehensive family planning and related preventative services to individuals living with low-incomes.
- ⊗ Under Title X, grants are distributed to federal Department of Health and Human Services Regional Offices, which then subcontract with providers of reproductive health care services.
- ⊗ There are nearly 4,000 Title X funded health centers throughout the country.<sup>2</sup>
  - 50 percent of Title X funded health centers are state, county, and local health departments.
  - Planned Parenthood health centers provide services to 40 percent of all individuals receiving Title X services.
  - Hospitals, family planning councils, community health centers, and other private non-profit organizations also receive Title X funds.
- ⊗ Title X funded health centers also receive revenue from other safety net programs and private insurance, including Medicaid, CHIP, state and local funding, private third-party payers, and other funding streams.
- ⊗ Title X clinics offer a range of reproductive health and family planning services, including: gynecological exams, contraception, counseling, pap tests, breast exams, and screenings for HIV/AIDS and other STIs.
- ⊗ All services are provided confidentially, which guarantees Latinxs a safe and trusted place to access family planning and reproductive health care services.
- ⊗ Title X funds cover a broad range of family planning related services, but do not include coverage for abortion care. Title X funded providers can use Title X funds to counsel individuals about their full range of options, but can only provide referrals for abortion care.

### **WHO DO TITLE X FUNDED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS SERVE?**

- ⊗ Title X funded health centers provide services to over 4 million individuals each year.
- ⊗ In 2016, 18,982 people were served by Title X funded health centers in Puerto Rico.
- ⊗ The majority of Title X patients are uninsured, underinsured, and/or living with low-incomes.
- ⊗ Title X funded health centers disproportionately serve young women and women of color.
  - Half of the 4 million patients who receive care by Title X health care providers identify as people of color.<sup>3</sup>
  - Approximately 32 percent of Title X patients identify as Hispanic.
  - One in 10 recipients has limited English proficiency.



## TITLE X FUNDED HEALTH CENTERS ARE AN ESSENTIAL SOURCE OF QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR LATINXS

- ⊕ As the most uninsured group in the United States, Title X funded health centers provides critical access to care for Latinxs, who would otherwise be unable to access contraception, STI testing, and preventive services like cervical cancer screenings.
  - Latinos have the highest uninsured rate (24.8 percent) of any racial or ethnic group.<sup>4</sup>
  - One-fourth of Latinas live below the poverty line and more than half are living in near-poverty. Foreign-born Hispanics are more likely to live in poverty than those who are U.S. born.<sup>5</sup>
  - Title X funded providers offer a number of services free of charge for Latinxs who live at or below the poverty line. A sliding scale fee is also available to Latinxs who have incomes between 100 percent and 250 percent of the poverty line.
- ⊕ In many states, a Title X funded health center is one of the few places a person of any immigration status can access reproductive health care and preventive health care services in a linguistically-appropriate manner.
  - Title X serves people of all immigration statuses.
  - Title X clinics are also bound by federal law to provide services in a linguistically appropriate manner, which is an essential component of quality reproductive health care for Latinxs who have limited proficiency in English.
  - Title X funded health centers provide care and financial assistance to individuals who are banned from accessing the Medicaid program due to their immigration status.
  - Under the 1996 welfare law, documented immigrants who entered the country after August 22, 1996 are excluded from Medicaid for their first five years of legal permanent residency unless the state they reside in specifically covers them through state funds.
- ⊕ Title X funded health centers offer the preventive services that are necessary to reduce the reproductive health disparities facing Latinxs and help Latinxs prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and breast and cervical cancer.
  - Latinxs do not access cervical and breast cancer screenings at the same rate as white women.
    - » As a result, Hispanic and Latina women have the highest incidence of cervical cancer compared to other races/ethnicities.<sup>6</sup>
  - Because of the high uninsured rate in the Latinx community, seeing a provider and accessing birth control is not an option for many individuals and Hispanics have higher levels of unintended pregnancy than white women.<sup>7</sup> This number would be even greater without Title X health care providers.
  - Per the CDC, between 2011 and 2015, diagnoses of HIV among Hispanic/Latina women declined by 14 percent.<sup>8</sup> Because of Title X funded health care centers, Latinxs can continue to receive linguistically-appropriate care and education to prevent against transmission of HIV, as well as receiving testing.
  - Title X providers provide essential screenings and treatments for STIs. Latinas have higher rates of chlamydia (2.1 times), gonorrhea (1.8 times), and syphilis (3.3 times) than white women.<sup>9</sup>
- ⊕ Title X health care centers provide critical services to uninsured and underinsured Latinx youth and provide them the opportunity to make decisions about their bodies, sexuality, health, and families with dignity and self-determination.
  - Latinx youth rely on Title X centers for confidential and affordable services.
  - In 2014, nearly half of U.S. born Latinos were younger than 18, about a quarter (14.6 million) of all Hispanics were millennials (ages 18 to 33), and Latinxs comprise the youngest major ethnic group in the United States.<sup>10</sup>
  - In 2015, more than three-fifths of Latino youth (62 percent) lived in families living with low-incomes (below 200 percent of the official poverty line), twice the proportion for white children (31 percent).<sup>11</sup>

## REFERENCES

- 1 “Latinx” is a term that challenges the gender binary in the Spanish language and embraces the diversity of genders that often are actively erased from spaces. Due to the limitations of data collection, we use “Latina(s)” or “women” where research only shows findings for cisgender women, including Latinas.
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- 5 Mather, Mark. “Trends and Challenges Facing America’s Latino Children.” Population Reference Bureau. <https://www.prb.org/trends-and-challenges-facing-americas-latino-children/>
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- 8 Center for Disease Control and Prevention. “Women Among HIV.” July 5, 2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/gender/women/index.html>
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- 10 Patten, Eileen. *The Nation’s Latino Population Is Defined by Its Youth: Nearly half of U.S.-born Latinos are younger than 18*. April 20, 2016. <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2016/04/20/the-nations-latino-population-is-defined-by-its-youth/>
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