



Missouri Family  
Health Council, Inc.

*Building healthy foundations for Missouri families.*

**Changes to Title X Family Planning Program  
Threaten Missourians' Access to Essential Reproductive Healthcare**

*A statement from Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.'s Executive Director, Michelle Trupiano.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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“On February 26, the Trump administration posted the final rule for the federal Title X family planning program that will fundamentally overhaul Title X to patients’ detriment. The rule is scheduled for publication on March 4.

“These changes abandon established medical ethics standards and clinical best practices, undermining Title X’s record of success and pushing forward regulations which will deny patients quality care at diverse health settings.

“This ‘gag rule’ does nothing to contribute to the health of clients and is clearly intended to make it harder for health centers to participate in the Title X program, which will result in increased wait times and delays in patient access to time-sensitive care throughout Missouri. Overall, patients will lose because of this rule. The healthcare safety net is already significantly strained in our state, and these changes have the potential to break already fragile systems of care.

“Title X has played an instrumental role in our public health system for nearly 50 years, providing healthcare to low-income and uninsured women, men, and teens which supports their ability to plan their futures. The program has also played a substantial role in reducing unintended pregnancy rates to all-time lows.

“Title X was created by Congress to give people equal access to high-quality family planning care and modern methods of contraception. Since the early 1970s, the program has played a critical role in the nation’s public health system, providing lifesaving health services—from contraceptive care and STD prevention and treatment to cancer screenings—for the four million people who rely on the program every year.

“Missouri’s Title X network supports the delivery of high-quality family planning services at community action agencies, health departments, hospitals, Planned Parenthood and other standalone family planning clinics, and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that collectively serve over 37,000 patients each year. In 2018, MFHC’s Network of 70 Title X clinics prevented 7,440 unintended pregnancies in Missouri resulting in \$44.8 million in savings to the state and federal governments<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher Institute Data Center, <https://data.guttmacher.org/states>



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“These regulations jeopardize the decades of public health advancements Title X has made. They are destructive, shortsighted, and incongruent with Title X’s mandate to make family planning services accessible for all Americans.”

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Missouri Family Health Council, Inc. (MFHC), a private nonprofit organization, champions access for every individual to culturally sensitive, quality, sexual and reproductive health education and services. For 38 years, MFHC has been the state’s sole Title X grantee. MFHC’s Network includes 18 subrecipients who provide Title X services at 70 clinic sites. In 2018, MFHC’s Network served 37,946 clients with high-quality family planning services at low- to no-cost.

MFHC is proud to support systems of care throughout the state, with particular emphasis on safety net providers, in delivering patient-centered reproductive healthcare to all those who seek services. Our programming is focused on removing cost barriers, specifically for the uninsured, and supporting health centers through quality training, analysis, and collaboration. Visit [www.MFHC.org](http://www.MFHC.org) to learn more.