



Help the Budget – Fund Family Planning!

\$3 Million in Family Planning Saves in Pregnancy Care Costs the Same Year

Family planning saves money: for every state dollar invested in family planning, Washington saves \$4.39 in pregnancy care costs according to the Guttmacher Institute. Reproductive health care not only supports healthy families by allowing people to plan their pregnancies, it keeps state Medicaid and other public costs down.

Unfortunately, the current state budget contains a massive cut to low-income family planning services in 2010. Department of Health family planning funding is being slashed by another \$3 million on top of the \$1 million cut that started in 2009. This cut was based on the hope that new family planning funding would become available from the federal government, but that hasn't happened.

These cuts are devastating to low-income Washingtonians and our state budget!

- **New unintended pregnancy care costs resulting from this cut will likely add over \$11 million in new state health care costs to the budget THE SAME YEAR.**
- Family planning providers are already stretched to the limit by previous budget cuts – four low-income family planning clinics have closed this year.
- Patients' access to family planning care is already reduced, and there are more reductions coming: the federal Center for Medicaid Services is closing the family planning nurse program at all 58 Community Service Office / TANF sites statewide in 2010.
- At least 19 more clinics are likely to close – over a quarter of all the low-income family planning clinics in the state – if this cut goes into effect.
- At least 12,500 more people would lose access to family planning services because of this funding cut.
- Our state would likely see over 3,000 additional unintended pregnancies THE SAME YEAR the cut is made among people who have lost services.

A budget deficit is exactly the time to fund family planning services, because these preventative services keep down other costs, like Medicaid and pregnancy care. That's why 2009 budget language expressed the intent to fix this cut if federal funding didn't come through.

Now is the time to do that! Organizations including the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists Washington Section, Children's Alliance, Legal Voice, NARAL Pro-Choice Washington, National Organization for Women Washington Chapter, Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington, and others urge legislators –

**Fill the \$3 Million Hole in DOH Family Planning Funding:
A 2010 Supplemental Budget Priority!**