

**641—76.1(135) Program explanation.** The maternal and child health (MCH) programs are operated by the Iowa department of public health as the designated state agency pursuant to an agreement with the federal government. The majority of the funding available is from the Title V, MCH services block grant, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The purpose of the program is to promote the health of mothers and children by ensuring or providing access to quality maternal and child health services (especially for low-income families or families with limited availability of health services); to reduce infant mortality and the incidence of preventable diseases and handicapping conditions; to increase the number of children appropriately immunized against disease; and to facilitate the development of community-based systems of health care for children and their families. The program provides and promotes family-centered, community-based coordinated care, including care/service coordination for children with special health care needs.

The department's family services bureau enters into contracts with selected private nonprofit or public agencies for the assurance of access to prenatal and postpartum care for women, preventive and primary child health services, and services to children with special health care needs. The types of services provided by these contracts are infrastructure building, population-based services, enabling services, and direct health services. The department's dental health bureau collaborates with the family services bureau to develop oral health programs to reduce barriers to oral health care and reduce dental disease through prevention. The children with special health care needs program is administered by Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC), University of Iowa. The department contracts with the University of Iowa department of pediatrics' Child Health Specialty Clinics to provide services to children with special health care needs. In accordance with the Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, CHSC shall ensure that public health funds will be used to cover the cost of services only after all other sources of reimbursement have been exhausted.

The MCH advisory council assists in the development of the state plan for MCH, including children with special health care needs and family planning. The advisory council assists with assessment of need, prioritization of services, establishment of objectives, and encouragement of public support for MCH and family planning programs. In addition, the advisory council advises the director regarding health and nutrition services for women and children, supports the development of special projects and conferences and advocates for health and nutrition services for women and children. The director appoints the council membership. Membership shall include parents of and service providers for children with special health care needs. The council membership shall also include the chairs, or designees, of the department's advisory committee for perinatal guidelines, and the birth defects advisory committee to ensure coordination of their respective issues and priorities. The chair of the family services bureau grantee committee or the designee of the chair may serve as an ex-officio member of the council.