

Federal Funding Priorities FY 2023



Senate Subcommittee Leaders



Sen. Patty Murray, Chair
(D-WA)



Sen. Roy Blunt, Ranking Member
(R-MO)

House Subcommittee Leaders



Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Chair
(D-CT-3)



Rep. Tom Cole, Ranking Member
(R-OK-4)

March of Dimes has worked with Congress over the years and successfully secured significant funding increases to support moms and babies. However, much more is needed, especially for **newborn screening and maternal health programs**.

As an organization working to advance sound maternal health policies, March of Dimes supports the work of the **National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)**. This work includes federal maternal and infant health research, surveillance for viruses, and newborn screening.

What We Are Asking

\$44 million

for CDC's Newborn Quality Assurance Program, including a \$15 million set-aside for the RUSP.

\$31 million

for HRSA's Heritable Disorders Program, including a \$2 million set-aside for the National Academy of Medicine study.

\$11.5 million

for the Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and Related Behavior Disorders Program.

\$7 million

for the Maternal Mental Health Hotline



Nearly every one of the approximately 4 million infants born in the United States is screened for certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and/or functional conditions.

Newborn screening is one of our nation's most successful public health programs. The early detection afforded by newborn screening ensures that infants who test positive for a screened condition receive prompt treatment, saving or improving the lives of more than 12,000 infants each year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration's (HRSA) activities have significantly improved the quality of newborn screening programs throughout the country.

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The **CDC's Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program** provides critical contributions to state newborn screening programs and is the only federal agency that works hand-in-hand with state laboratories and implementation of the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). **HRSA's Heritable Disorders Program** provides assistance to states to improve and expand their newborn screening programs and to promote parent and provider education. HRSA also supports the work of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.

Increased funding will help expand and enhance CDC's program including enabling states to establish state testing for new conditions to be added to the RUSP. More resources provided to HRSA's program will help continue to enhance, improve, expand, and provide technical assistance to the state public health newborn screening systems, as well as fund a critical study on uniform screening panel review and recommendation processes.

HRSA also provides critical support addressing **maternal mental health (MMH) conditions**, including the Maternal Mental Health Hotline and the Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and Related Behavior Disorders Program. Sadly, MMH conditions often go undiagnosed and untreated, increasing the risk of multigenerational long-term negative impact on the mother's and child's physical, emotional, and developmental health, increasing the risk of poor health outcomes of both the mother and baby.



One in five women are affected by anxiety, depression, and other maternal mental health (MMH) conditions during pregnancy or the year following pregnancy.



Those illnesses are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, impacting **800,000 women in the United States each year**.



Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression & Related Behavior Disorders Treatment Program

provides grants to states to support programs that provide real-time psychiatric consultation, care coordination, and training for front-line providers to better screen, assess, refer and treat pregnant and postpartum women for depression and other behavioral health conditions. These programs provide a critically-needed and cost-effective lifeline to pregnant women and new mother at the most vulnerable period of their lives.



The **maternal mental health hotline** was created to provide qualified counselors to staff the hotline 24 hours a day and conduct outreach efforts to raise awareness about maternal mental health issues. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated maternal mental health conditions to 3-4 times the rate prior to the pandemic and leaving maternal mental health conditions untreated can have a long-term impact on mother, baby, family, and society. Funding will help expand the hotline to provide text services, culturally-appropriate support, and continue public awareness around maternal mental health conditions.