

National Headquarters
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450
Arlington, VA 22202
(202) 371-9090

Regional Office
600 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1000
Atlanta, GA 30308
(202) 371-9090

www.astho.org
@ASTHO

February 7, 2018

Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
1825 K Street NW; Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Freeman:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) enthusiastically supports the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs' (AMCHP) competitive proposal for the cooperative agreement: ***Supporting State Maternal and Child Health Policy Innovation Program*** (HRSA-18-086) through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

AMCHP's efforts are consistent with ASTHO's mission to support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being. Our organizations have a long history of collaborating to support the work of our members. AMCHP and ASTHO were partners in the MCHB-funded AIM Access consortium. We collaborate on critical MCH issues like infant mortality, breastfeeding, Zika, and mental health and substance use. ASTHO supports AMCHP's ability to leverage its national and state-level expertise to promote collaboration between Title V and health policymakers to develop and implement state policy solutions to expand access to quality health care.

ASTHO is pleased to be recognized as a collaborative partner with AMCHP in this effort to improve access to quality health care for MCH populations in states and territories. We agree to work collaboratively with AMCHP to: jointly fund, plan, facilitate, and run the advisory committee, in-person policy academies, state technical assistance, and virtual learning for the multi-state learning communities. Sharing costs associated with in-person and virtual meetings with state teams, subject matter experts, and technical assistance requests provides economies of scale for HRSA/MCHB.

Each organization brings unique skills and assets to the collaboration. AMCHP will manage sub awards with CityMatCH, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) for enhanced state team partnerships and provide MCH-focused government relations expertise. ASTHO will provide robust expertise in accreditation, quality improvement, and evaluation and in-kind expertise in behavioral health and injury prevention, substance misuse and addiction, tobacco cessation, and from its Center for Public Health Strategies.

ASTHO supports AMCHP's application and looks forward to leveraging our organization's expertise in a coordinated manner and collaborating with AMCHP as we pursue our common goal of expanding access to quality health care for the MCH population.

Sincerely,



Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
Executive Director