



Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Office of Population Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20201

Date: February 24, 1998

From: Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs

Subject: OPA Program Instruction Series, OPA 98-1: Certifications for Encouraging Family Participation and Counseling to Minors on How to Resist Coercive Attempts to Engage In Sexual Activities

To: Regional Health Administrators, Regions I-X

The fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor/HHS and Education (P.L. 105-78) contains language governing the use of Title X funds. Specifically, the language states:

"None of the funds appropriated in the Act may be made available to any entity under Title X of the Public Health Service Act unless the applicant for the award certifies to the Secretary that it encourages family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that it provides counseling to minors on how to resist attempts to coerce minors into engaging in sexual activities."

To implement this requirement, each Title X grantee is required to have on file with the Office of Grants Management, an updated Title X Certification of Compliance certifying that the grantee: (1) encourages family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services, and (2) provides counseling to minors on how to resist coercive attempts to engage in sexual activities. Attached for your information is a copy of the revised certification. The Office of Grants Management will contact each Title X grantee to obtain the necessary signatures. Compliance with the signed certification will continue to be an item reviewed by regional office staff as part of ongoing program oversight activities and during periodic on-site program reviews.

Clinic staff should be made aware of the new certification requirement. Toward that end, we encourage sharing of this memorandum with delegate agencies and service providers. We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage grantees to review existing policies to assure that service, counseling and outreach provisions reflect the concerns contained in the appropriations language. As is always the case, it is important that client records include documentation of all counseling and information provided. We also encourage grantees to assure that appropriate training is available, including utilization of training available through the Title X training grantees, as need be.

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Taylor, Acting Director of the Office of Family Planning at (301) 594-4008.

/s/
Thomas C. Kring
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Population Affairs

Attachment

cc: Regional Program Consultants
Regions I-X