

93.994

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK  
GRANT TO THE STATES**

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**State Program/Project: MATERNAL SERUM ALPHA-FETOPROTEIN  
SCREENING**

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Federal Authorization:** 42 United States Code Section 701-709

**State Authorization:** 10A NC Administrative Code 43A .01

**N. C. Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health**

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**Agency Contact Person - Program**

Lara Perenti  
(919) 707-5634

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**Agency Contact Person - Financial**

Pat Ward  
Chief Budget Officer  
(919) 707-5075

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**Brief Description of Program:**

Funds are awarded through a competitive Request for Application process to public or private non-profit major medical centers with a genetics program and a fully functioning AFP laboratory to provide maternal serum screening to pregnant women in NC with low income. The goal of this program is to increase access to maternal serum screening for pregnant women with low income and to reduce neonatal mortality and the incidence of chronic handicapping conditions by identifying high risk pregnancies for neural tube defects, Down syndrome and trisomy 18. The required services include provision of maternal serum screening to pregnant women in NC with low income, education of physicians and other health care providers about this program and about the importance of screening; accurate interpretation of lab results to physicians so that they can discuss counseling options with patients; and provision of additional types of testing to the pregnant woman if indicated by the screening test result.

**Organizations Funded:** [ ] Private [X] Local Government [ ] Both

**Source of Funds:** State  X  Federal \_\_\_\_\_