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

State Program/Project: INFANT MORTALITY REDUCTION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Federal Authorization: Section 11L.1. (bb)

State Authorization: Senate Bill 1505

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

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Brief Description of Program:

The purpose of the Infant Mortality Reduction program is to provide funds to local health departments to implement evidence-based programs in the counties that have experienced the highest infant mortality rates during the five-year period of 2010-2014.

In the state fiscal year 2015-2016, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated one million five hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$1,575,000) in the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Plan to the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Division of Public Health (DPH) for each year of the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium to be used for evidence-based programs in North Carolina counties with the highest infant mortality rates. These funds continue to be re-appropriated.

All local health departments were required to implement or expand upon at least one evidence-based strategy that is proven to lower infant mortality rates. The evidence-based strategies were the following: 17P (alpha hydroxyprogesterone) injections to prevent preterm births; Centering Pregnancy model of group prenatal care; doula services program, reproductive life planning services; Nurse Family Partnership program; infant safe sleep practices; and tobacco cessation and prevention. The selected strategies have all proven to be an effective means to improve birth outcomes through addressing pregnancy intendedness, preterm birth, and/or infant death.

The funding distribution was based on the number of infant deaths per county during the five-year period of 2010-2014. In 2020-2021, there were 21 counties funded under this program.

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

Source of Funds: State _____ Federal X