

## i. PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Massachusetts Perinatal Expansion Program (PEP)

Applicant Organization Name: Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Address: 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118. Project Director Name: Ned Robinson-Lynch, MA, LMHC, Director, Division of Health Access. Contact Phone Numbers: 617-624-6010, E-Mail Address: [ned.robinson-lynch@state.ma.us](mailto:ned.robinson-lynch@state.ma.us). Web Site Address: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph>

Number of years of support requested: 4

Project summary: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), working with a committed and experienced group of project partners, proposes the ***Massachusetts Perinatal Expansion Program (PEP)*** an innovative set of coordinated activities focused on integrating and improving the delivery of oral health and primary care to pregnant women and infants. The program seeks to address some of the state's most pressing oral health needs: access to oral health care, coordination of medical and dental care to pregnant women and infants and long term sustainability. The Mass PEP project plan includes an integration pilot at three community health centers in different parts of the state serving widely diverse and predominantly low-income patients.

Objectives: Mass PEP has three main objectives: (1) *Perinatal Care Guidelines:* By year 1, the project will implement the guidelines that are currently under development in the three pilot community health centers (see Objective 2). This will allow prenatal and pediatric providers to establish a mechanism by which all pregnant women are referred for dental screening and treatments, and establish a dental home for all infant by age one. This objective corresponds to the HRSA goals of "expand opportunities for access to oral health services" and "increase delivery of best practices for oral health care." (2) *Health center pilot:* By the end of year 2, pilot improved strategies for integrating perinatal and infant oral health and primary care in 3 community health centers. By the end of year 2, we expect: (a) an increase by at least 10% from each health center's year 1 baseline of the % of women who receive oral health care during pregnancy and the % of infants who have receive oral health care by age one; and by year 4 we will (b) develop a replicable model that will be shared with community health centers statewide. This objective corresponds to the HRSA goals of "expand opportunities for access to oral health services" and "increase delivery of best practices for oral health care." (3) *Policy change for sustainability:* By the end of year 3, using lessons learned from the health center pilot and other information developed through project activities, develop and disseminate a policy brief on how integrated primary care and oral health services fits into the new payment models taking root in Massachusetts; by the end of year 4, develop an integration toolkit for health centers and other providers to support the policy brief.

How the proposed project be accomplished: Mass PEP will be led by the MDPH Office of Oral Health, working with partners such as the maternal and Child Bureau of MDPH, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition, and a broad coalition of members in an project advisory board. The program will also include a strong process and outcome evaluation component, ongoing monitoring to ensure that the program stays on track to meet its objectives, and a set of statewide and national dissemination activities, including an MCH Oral Health Summit and conference presentations.