

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____

This is the annual grant renewal for the state Newborn Blood Screening Program (NBS) under the Maternal and Child Health Division of the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD). This grant is through the Wisconsin Division of Public Health and the grant cycle runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The purpose of the Newborn Blood Screening Program is to screen every infant born in Wisconsin not tested at the birth location or who needs to be retested for 48 different blood disorders to ensure that every child identified with a condition has access to timely and appropriate diagnostic and intervention services.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

This grant would achieve various positive impacts.

- 1. While infants are often covered by insurance, accessing and navigating proper medical care is often difficult for families. The NBS coordinators' role is to work with any infant in Wisconsin who requires initial or repeat testing and ensure families establish and receive appropriate specialty care when a condition is present.*
- 2. The major activity of this grant is to assist families in getting their infant screened, accessing medical care for follow-up tests, assuring appropriate medical follow-up for infants with a condition, and establishing a medical home for ongoing primary and specialty care.*
- 3. In addition, this program provides education to clients and professionals about newborn blood* 

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Newborn Blood Screening services are offered to all ethnicities, races, genders, sexual identities, legal statuses, languages and disabilities and can accommodate language, socioeconomic, housing, and transportation needs as the services are built to support families; therefore all Wisconsin families will be positively impacted through these services as mentioned in question #2.

Unless newborn screening is done, the condition may stay hidden and cause permanent damage to the baby therefore no minority groups will be negatively impacted by NBS other than those families who chose not to have their baby screened due to religious beliefs and practices or personal convictions. 

4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

While Newborn Blood Screening services can be provided to all Wisconsin families, infants are tested and case managed only upon request via referral from The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) and community hospitals. The NBS program does not actively pursue infants of a specific minority or community for testing or case management. The referral is based on need for accurate blood draws for baby. Barriers for families may include missed blood draw in hospital, transportation, or access to care concerns. MHD addresses the needs via follow up, communication with providers, case management and direct care as needed.

The BHM Coordinator works in close collaboration with many hospitals and clinics serving the



5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

The Milwaukee Health Department tracks the number of infants referred from the newborn screening laboratory and community hospitals, number of infants screened by MHD, percentage of infants referred and successfully screened, number of infants referred who have a primary care provider identified, number of infants with sickle cell seen in clinic by 4 months of age, number of infants case managed for Cystic Fibrosis, number of infants lost to follow up, and number of presentations/educational sessions conducted by the NBS coordinator. All data and other data metrics mentioned are tracked and documented in the Milwaukee Health Department FCH Dashboard on a monthly basis and all individual cases are tracked in Patagonia and Red Cap.



6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

This program helps to improve the health of children, reduce infant mortality, and ensure that all children entering school are physically and mentally capable of living their best lives by screening for 48 conditions that may stay hidden and cause permanent damage or death if left untreated or undiagnosed. All of these are departmental objectives and assist in attaining the City-wide objective of making Milwaukee a city of healthy citizens with educational opportunities.

The NBS coordinator will continue to manage all incoming referrals and assess and monitor infants needs for blood screening and or related follow up; troubleshoot the need to establish a medical home, acquire medical insurance, and refers families to other community resources to meet it's needs, all of which create positive community impact



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