



# Help Moms & Babies Receive Bereavement Care

The [\\$6.5B Maternal and Child Health Bureau Title V block grant](#) is one of our nation's most significant investments in health and wellbeing. The program reaches every state and jurisdiction in the nation touching an estimated 55 million people, including pregnant women, infants, children and children with disabilities. Nearly every infant and mother benefits from the program, while more than half of all American children are helped.

Today, bereavement is not a current priority, although the program funds infant mortality prevention and child death fatality reviews.

## **Read your state's program overview.**

The MCHB program allows states to determine how best to use their funds to support the health and wellbeing of pregnant women, infants, children and children with disabilities. Because of this, each state has wide flexibility to determine what is most beneficial for their residents. [Read your state's MCHB Profile or Action Plan to understand what is currently being offered.](#)

## **Does your state offer families bereavement care?**

Determine if your state has prioritized bereavement care. In most states, bereavement will not be a priority because most of our nation does not realize it's an issue. Check out our [Key Facts webpage](#) for more information.

## **Call or email your State Maternal & Child Health Director.**

Contact your state's maternal and child health director. [Here is contact information for all states.](#) Ask your state's MCH Director if they are accepting public comments pertaining to MCH priorities. Regardless of their answer, share with them your concerns about bereavement and the lack of supportive programming in your community. We've provided some suggested language below. Feel free to cut and paste!

## **Share what you learn with friends or colleagues.**

The more people who voice a concern for bereaved families, the more our leadership will believe it is a worthwhile problem to address.



## Sample email language:

### Subject line: Response Requested: MCHB's investment in bereavement care

As a longtime resident of **State** and bereaved individual, I am interested in learning more about how our state's MCHB program supports families in the aftermath of an infant's or child's death. From reviewing our State's Profile and Action Plan, I noted that our funding supports infant mortality prevention efforts, child death reviews, but not bereavement care for the families themselves. This is a notable gap given the severe health implications resulting from bereavement.

As you may know, the unexpected death of a loved one is the most common traumatic event American's report and these families rate it as their worst life event. I am concerned that bereaved mothers or siblings will be left "on our own" to figure out how to cope.

The data on bereavement is very compelling. Bereaved mothers and siblings are at greater risk of death themselves following the loss of a child and sibling, respectively. Mothers experience more cardiac events, immune dysfunction, substance abuse, psychiatric hospitalization, cognitive decline and more. Bereaved siblings face significant health and academic hardships as well.

Given the increases in overdoses, suicides, gun violence, as well as your investment in infant mortality prevention and child death reviews, I'm hoping to learn more where, if at all, bereavement care for families falls in our state's priorities.

Hope to learn more!

#### About Evermore:

Evermore is dedicated to making the world a more livable place for bereaved individuals and families. Bereavement care in America is broken and that's why we're here. We are committed to an equal America where all families and professionals have access to care, programs, tools and resources to cope and adapt to loss. We believe in a society where bereavement care is the rule, not the exception. Our nation needs it now more than ever. Help us make that change. To learn more, visit [www.live-evermore.org](http://www.live-evermore.org).

