



# 2010-2011 Urban Initiative Grants: Successes in Improving Urban Reproductive Health

In 2010-2011, the Urban Initiative for Reproductive Health supported a variety of partners in advancing reproductive health and rights at the local level through policy solutions, innovative programming, and on-the-ground gatherings of policymakers, advocates, and public health officials.

## Advancing Urban Reproductive Health Through Public Policy

**California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative:** In 2010, the Collaborative helped San Francisco pass and implement a Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program to help salons reduce the use of toxic chemicals that can affect employees' reproductive health. Plans for replication in other cities have begun with continued support from the Urban Initiative.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation:** In 2010, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas passed legislation in the City of Austin to require crisis pregnancy centers to disclose that they do not provide or refer for abortion. Trained volunteers are investigating compliance.

**Women's Law Project:** The Women's Law Project created a toolkit to help other cities replicate Pittsburgh's health clinic buffer zone legislation, provided technical assistance to advocates and legislators in other cities considering such action, and advised the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania on implementation of Pittsburgh's ordinance.

**NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Foundation:** NARAL hosted two roundtables to expand their community-by-community approach to increasing access to comprehensive sexuality education in Missoula and Helena. During this grant period, Helena School District trustees finalized the health enhancement curriculum which included improved focus on comprehensive sexuality education.

## Advancing Urban Reproductive Health Through Innovative Programming

**Aid to Inmate Mothers:** This year, AIM educated more than 400 incarcerated women in Montgomery on reproductive health care issues ranging from cervical cancer to contraception and STI prevention. AIM also works with prison administration and social service providers to help formerly-incarcerated women access services.

**Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc.:** A thriving coalition in Los Angeles has implemented procedures and protocols leading to improved integration of Pap tests; expanded emergency contraception access in urgent care clinics; increased culturally-competent training for providers to expand access to long-acting reversible contraception; and expedited partner therapy.

**Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation:** The Foundation created an evaluation of Milwaukee Public Schools' comprehensive sex education curriculum, and increased the number of schools and classrooms teaching it.

**Neighborhood Health Source:** The Seen on da Streets program provided more than 689 chlamydia and gonorrhea tests for people between the ages of 13-39 through their street-based outreach program. Increased collaboration with family planning staff has led to a 95% compliance rate for patients using birth control.

**Teen HYPE (Helping Youth by Providing Education):** Youth investigators compiled a directory of youth-friendly reproductive health clinics in Detroit, MI, and have distributed directories to 40 schools in addition to local elected and public health officials and advocates.



# 2010-2011 Urban Initiative Grants: Advancing Urban Reproductive Health with Strategic Gatherings of Stakeholders



## Policymaker Leadership Institutes

In **Phoenix, Arizona**, the **Arizona Family Planning Council** hosted a citywide summit to set a reproductive health policy agenda for Phoenix with community-based recommendations to reduce health disparities and improve pregnancy outcomes. With support from Mayor Phil Gordon, attendees initiated a dialogue among nontraditional stakeholders to address gaps, trends and future steps for improving the health status of women in Phoenix.

In **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, **New Voices Pittsburgh** hosted *Protecting the Rights of Incarcerated Women to Reproductive Health Care* with 65 local elected officials, advocates, formerly incarcerated women, and legal experts. This launched the FOCUS on Women campaign to improve reproductive health care in Allegheny County Jails, leading to 3,748 petition signatures to the County Council calling for improved medical oversight in jails.

In **San Francisco, California**, the **California School Health Centers Association** hosted school board members from cities across California to discuss comprehensive sexual health education. Evaluation shows the event was successful in increasing knowledge, understanding, and motivation for issues surrounding comprehensive sexuality education among advocates and school board members.

## Policymaker Roundtables

In **Chicago, IL**, the **Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH)** hosted *Young, Smart and Pregnant: Overcoming Barriers to Academic Success*, featuring teens from their Young Parent Alliance. More than 125 advocates and representatives from Chicago Public Schools, the Department of Health, and offices of elected officials gathered to highlight the challenges pregnant and parenting youth face and to build support for the Pregnant and Parenting Youth Bill of Rights.

In **St. Louis, MO**, the **Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Partnership** created a citywide coalition devoted to addressing teen pregnancy and STI rates and hosted a roundtable with participants from the St. Louis City Health Department.

In **Portland, OR** the **Urban League of Portland** hosted a roundtable focused on birth outcomes in the Portland, Oregon African-American community. This strategic gathering of key elected officials and community stakeholders explored issues of low birth weight, infant mortality, and maternal health and concluded with policy recommendations for the city and state.

In **Baltimore, MD**, the **Healthy Teen Network** and the Baltimore City Health Department hosted a roundtable and released their report on teen pregnancy. The event featured Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot. Since the event, Dr. Barbot has refused abstinence-only dollars and has formed an advisory group to implement the strategies developed to address Baltimore's high teen pregnancy rate.

Learn more about the Urban Initiative, a program of the National Institute for Reproductive Health, at [www.UrbanInitiative.org](http://www.UrbanInitiative.org)



NATIONAL  
INSTITUTE FOR  
REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH