



Our mission: To promote and ensure reproductive and sexual health, responsibility, and freedom.

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Family Planning Funding Cut Impacts Planned Parenthood

MICHIGAN — Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan (PPWNM) has received notice from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) that PPWNM's total family planning funding for fiscal year 2009–10 will be reduced by 31 percent, or more than \$350,000!

The cut will impact PPWNM's customary ability to provide services to all the women, men, teens, and families who rely on subsidized care; and will mean that more clients will have to pay for more of their services.

“Since this family planning grant represents one of our largest sources of funding, this new cut is deep and very painful,” said PPWNM President/CEO Katherine Humphrey, “It will reduce our ability to provide vital reproductive health care services to those we know have few, if any, alternatives.”

PPWNM remains committed to working with each client to identify and help them access other means of available financial support for our services, including the state's Plan First! family planning program, Medicaid, and private insurance providers. But for those who do not qualify, payment will be expected at the time of service.

Humphrey says clients will still find PPWNM's services more affordable than other options for care, “But the bottom line is that we simply can no longer operate as a ‘free clinic.’”

Another result of the cut is an immediate reduction in office hours at four of PPWNM's seven health centers. The changes impact centers in Big Rapids, Ionia, Petoskey, and Traverse City. Hours will not change at PPWNM health centers in Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Marquette.

PPWNM was forced to close five of its health centers in 2007 after a \$700,000 cut in family planning funding.

“Fortunately we do not have to take such drastic steps this time around,” said Humphrey, “Although we are forced to reduce hours at some sites, we are pleased to be able to continue to offer convenient morning, afternoon, and evening appointments at all of our locations.”

The non-profit PPWNM also relies on donations to fund its services, “We are so grateful to our committed donors, and we encourage all supporters of family planning and preventive health care to consider a gift to PPWNM at this critical time,” said Humphrey.

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Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan provides reproductive health care and education services, while advocating for reproductive choice, with locations in seven Michigan cities. Learn more at www.ppwnm.org.

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