

# An Analysis of Federal Funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers

2017–2023

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## INTRODUCTION

Over the past several years, national and local Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) networks have secured significant funding to support their activities.

CPCs are organizations that represent themselves—and often market themselves—as reproductive healthcare clinics offering services for pregnant people and appear similar to clinics offering a full range of reproductive health services.

In fact, however, CPCs typically do not employ licensed healthcare providers, often provide medically inaccurate information or non-evidence-based counseling related to reproductive healthcare or pregnancy, and pressure clients to carry pregnancies to term. As a result, access to time-sensitive healthcare by qualified medical professionals is often delayed. CPCs are not generally required to comply with federal privacy laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) which applies to health care settings. Consequently, this means that health information that they gather from their clients is not legally protected and is not required to be kept confidential.

The leading organizations in the field studying and gathering information about CPCs have been tracking federal and state funding for these organizations and have identified a lack of comprehensive information regarding CPC federal funding streams and state allocations of that money as a critical gap. There is limited oversight and transparency with respect to federal funding that CPCs receive and how they use these funds, both directly and through state or local agencies. HMA completed the following analysis to gain a clearer understanding of federal funding streams and state allocations of that funding to CPCs and CPC networks.

## METHODOLOGY

HMA gathered information from publicly available sources to identify federal funding streams and amounts distributed to CPCs and CPC networks, including through state Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) programs. We conducted a comprehensive analysis and developed a summary of federal programs that have directly and indirectly funded CPCs between 2017–2023. Following is a summary of the approach and methodology used to identify funding sources and amounts.

### CPC Landscape Analysis

HMA reviewed publicly available information on major national, state, and local CPCs from resources including, but not limited to, the CPC map maintained by the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department of the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia, Equity Forward, and The Alliance State Advocates for Women’s Rights and Gender Equality. Further, we cross-checked the locations of CPCs and CPC networks with federal funding streams and amounts identified in subsequent research.

### Federal Funding Streams and State Allocations of Federal Funding to CPCs

HMA used publicly available information obtained through the fiscal year (FY) 2024 federal budget, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the US Department of the Treasury (DOT), and additional government websites to identify and confirm federal funding streams and federal funding allocations to CPCs and CPC networks, including A2A programs. HMA identified funding sources and amounts disbursed to CPCs and CPC networks through the following HHS programs:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the emergency food and shelter program
- Title V General Department (GD) Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program
- Title X Federal Family Planning Program
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Given that programs such as TANF and Title V are block grants to states, HMA conducted further state-specific research to identify where possible allocations of block grant dollars have been made to fund CPCs in recent years. This information sometimes was difficult to access or lacked detail. Our review included state budgets, legislation, executive orders, TANF state plans, media coverage, and announcements from funded organizations. HMA also reviewed publicly available organization-specific financial information to identify federal funding streams and state funding amounts for each organization, where relevant and available. However, public information about specific state uses of TANF funding beyond the overall aid categories is often limited.

## Comprehensive Summary of CPCs Receiving Federal Funding

Funding amounts are organized in the tables below by funding source and the year of allocation, from the beginning of 2017 through the end of 2023. Ongoing funding streams also are included in the year they were allocated. In addition, because of the COVID-19 pandemic (beginning in 2020), emergency funding was distributed outside of typical federal programs. Given the unique and temporary nature of this program, CARES Act funding is shown separately from other funding streams, while other sources of funding are subtotaled.

Funding streams primarily follow consistent grant cycles, whereas TANF block grants follow a separate annual block grant cycle. Though this report focuses on direct grantees from a federal agency or office, states also fund CPCs with state-only general fund dollars, health or social services department budgets, and/or outside or local organizations. Funding streams and the names and affiliations of CPCs are sometimes unclear or indistinguishable from healthcare providers and other organizations. We identified five federal funding streams as direct funders of CPCs, but it is possible that other funding streams examined are indirectly supporting CPCs.

Variables included in the spreadsheet include:

- Federal departments and programs that fund CPCs and CPC networks (including A2A programs)
  - Direct federal Funding
  - Block grant funding
  - Emergency funding
- CPCs and CPC networks (including A2A Programs) receiving federal dollars
- Funding eligibility
- Notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs)
- Funding amounts
- Oversight

## FINDINGS

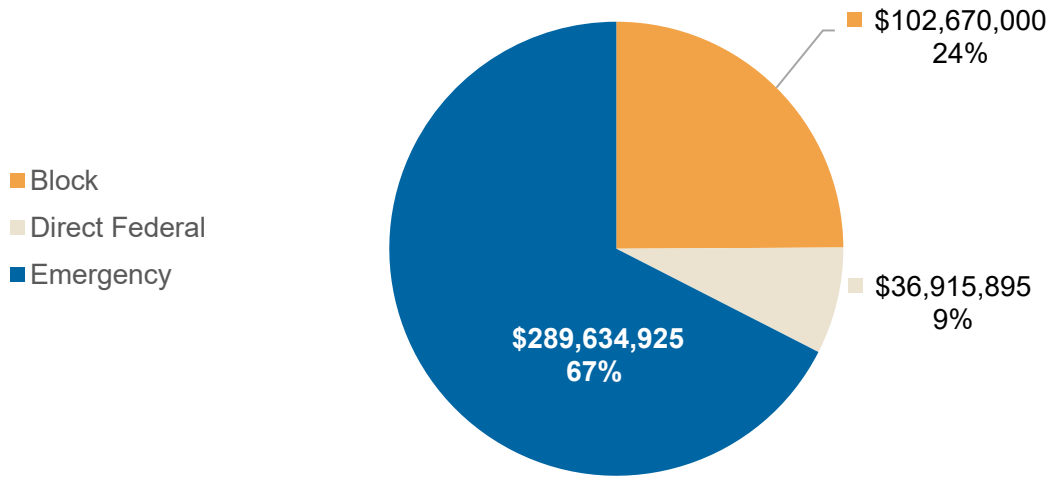
### Overview

From 2017 to 2023, \$429,220,420 in federal funding was awarded to more than 650 CPCs in 49 states and Washington, DC. The table and figures below represent the high-level funding amount identified from the beginning of 2017 through the end of 2023 by funding type, block grant, direct federal, and emergency funding.

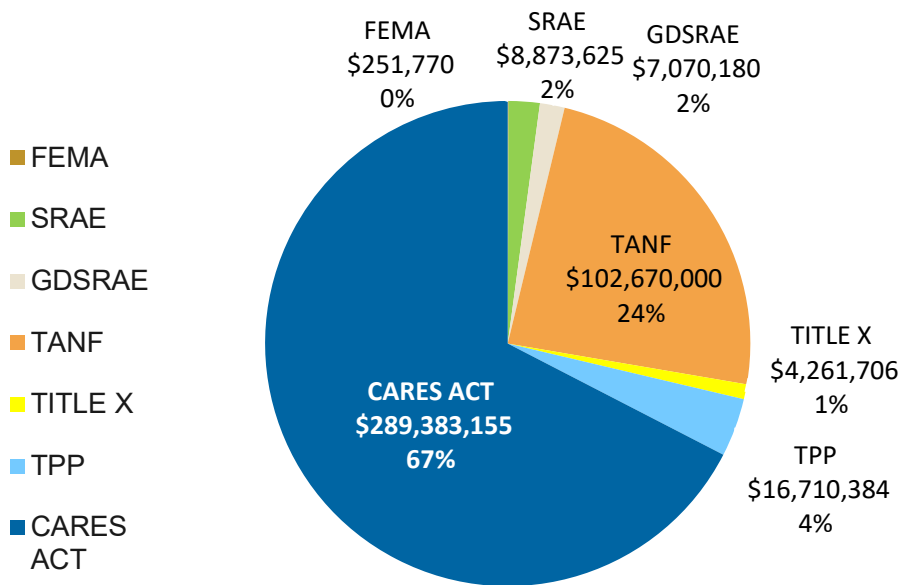
**Table 1. Federal CPC Funding Programs, 2017–2023**

Summary of Federal CPC Funding								
Funding Program	Year Awarded							Total Funding (2017-2023)
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
FEMA	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$222,863	\$28,907	\$-	\$251,770
SRAE	\$1,084,501	\$-	\$900,000	\$1,350,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,094,562	\$1,194,562	\$8,873,625
GDSRAE	\$-	\$433,280	\$1,944,560	\$1,708,889	\$424,854	\$2,133,743	\$424,854	\$7,070,180
TANF	\$12,060,000	\$13,210,000	\$13,960,000	\$15,060,000	\$18,660,000	\$16,060,000	\$13,660,000	\$102,670,000
TITLE X	\$-	\$-	\$2,300,000	\$2,460,000	\$(498,294)	\$-	\$-	\$4,261,706
TPP	\$-	\$374,463	\$1,853,463	\$4,271,212	\$3,896,749	\$2,417,749	\$3,896,748	\$16,710,384
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,144,501</b>	<b>\$14,017,743</b>	<b>\$20,958,023</b>	<b>\$24,850,101</b>	<b>\$24,956,172</b>	<b>\$22,734,961</b>	<b>\$19,176,164</b>	<b>\$139,837,665</b>
CARES ACT	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$32,459,308	\$209,317,938	\$47,604,547	\$1,362	\$289,383,155
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,144,501</b>	<b>\$13,643,280</b>	<b>\$19,104,560</b>	<b>\$57,309,409</b>	<b>\$234,274,110</b>	<b>\$70,339,508</b>	<b>\$19,177,526</b>	<b>\$429,220,820</b>

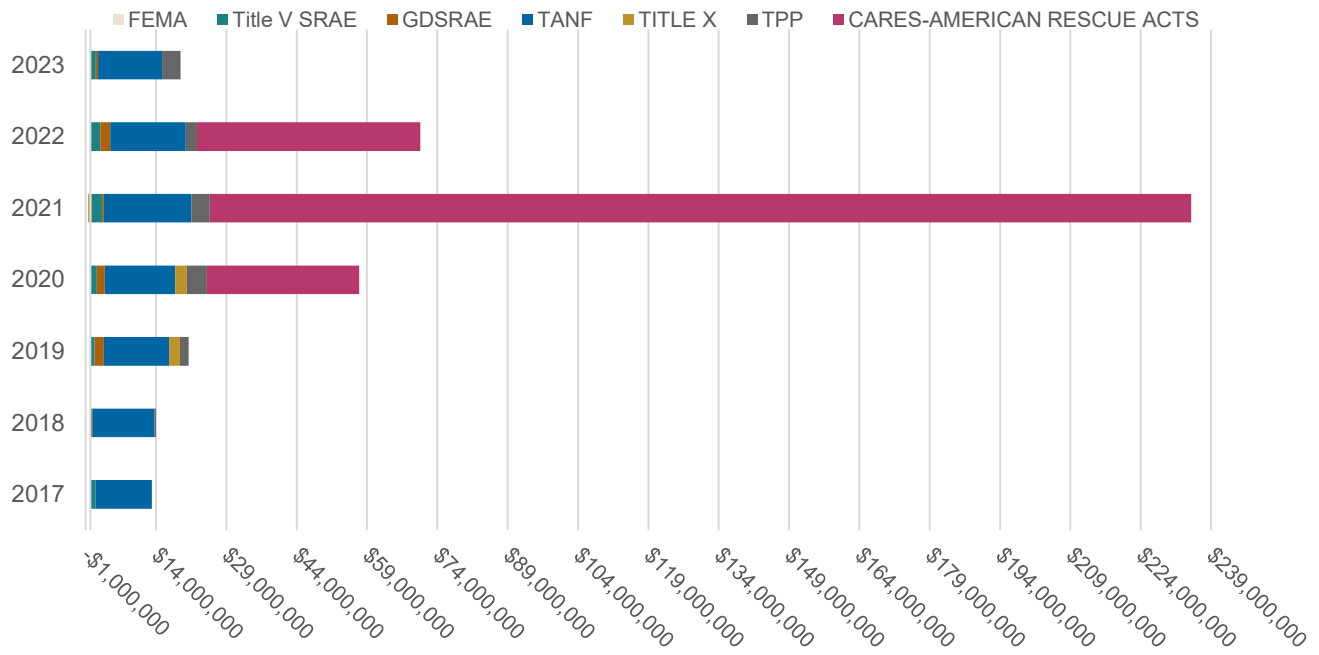
**Figure 1. Federal Funding for CPCs, 2017–2023**



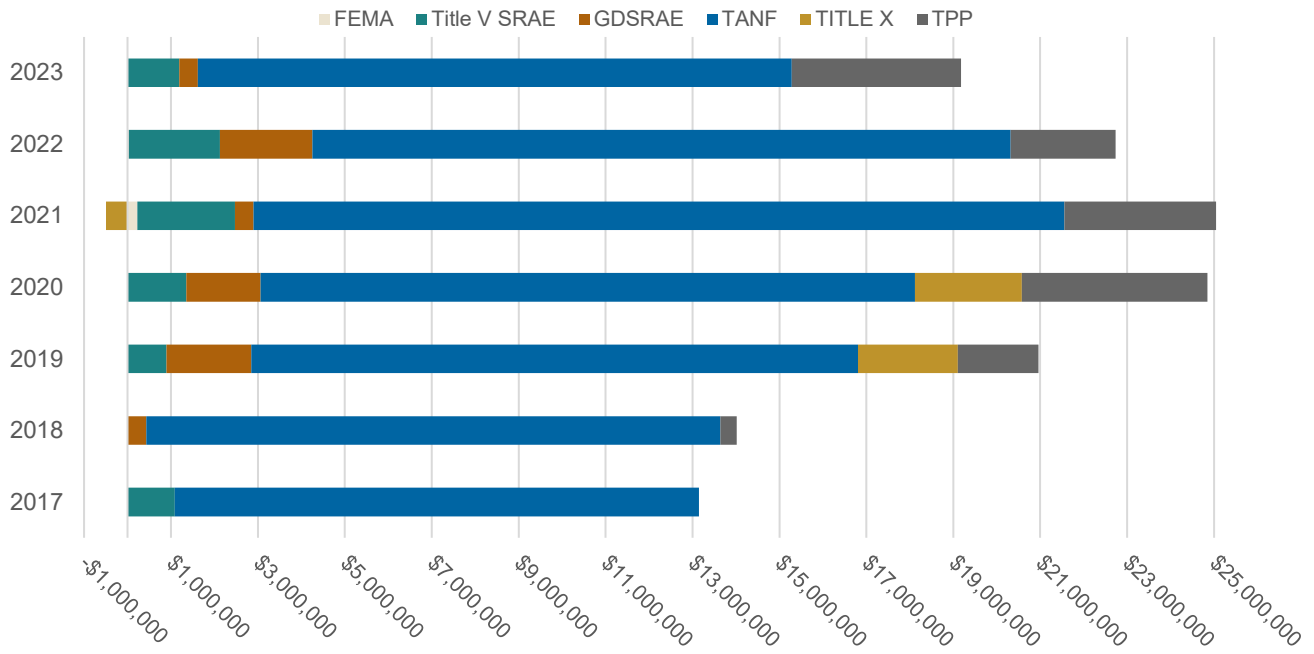
**Figure 2. Federal Funding Distributed to CPCs in 2017–2023**



**Figure 3. Federal Funding Distributed to CPCs by Program, 2017–2023**



**Figure 4. Sources of Federal Funding for CPCs Minus CARES Funding, 2017–2023**



### Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 and 2021

The CARES Act was intended to provide quick direct economic assistance to employees, families, small businesses, and industries during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to offset economic hardship.<sup>1</sup> HMA identified CARES Act loans, grants, and direct payments as a substantial source of funding for CPCs. The dataset included all identified CPCs, cross-checked with data gathered by Reoperation, that received funding from 2020 through the end of 2023. In all, 623 awards were recorded, totaling \$289,383,155. Awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$95.6 million, averaging \$145,352.63 per award. Many CPCs were listed in the CARES database under multiple and/or misleading names, differing from their actual facility/organization name. This created difficulty in identifying each CPC and calculating accurate funding totals. CPCs were identified and matched through the addresses submitted to the CARES database.

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / the Emergency Food and Shelter Program

FEMA funds the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), which was established through the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (P.L. 98-8). Program funds are intended to be used for food, lodging, rent or mortgage, utilities, and the equipment needed to feed and shelter people.<sup>2</sup> HMA identified FEMA funding through the EFS P through publicly available data from Phase 39 (2021), Phase 40 (2022), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, 2021). Because of the COVID-19 crisis, beginning in 2020, an additional funding stream was created in ARPA. Though ARPA funding was distributed in 2023, data were not publicly available. Eight CPC programs were funded through FEMA in 2021 and 2022, totaling \$251,770.

### Title V General Department (GD) Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program

Both the GDSRAE and SRAE Programs are intended to fund projects designed to implement sexual risk avoidance education that teaches participants how to make healthy decisions, as well as providing tools and resources to prevent pregnancy, STIs, and youth engagement in other risky behaviors. Applicants for these programs are required to use medically accurate information and implement evidence-based approaches.<sup>3</sup> HMA identified that Title V SRAE Program funding was awarded to seven CPCs during the following grant cycles: 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The ongoing grants were awarded to: Corona Life Services, Real Options, The Obria Group, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Yakima, and My Choices. HMA also identified grant funding from the GDSRAE Program that was awarded to eight different CPCs during the following grant cycles: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Ongoing grants were awarded to the following CPCs: Pregnancy Resource Center of Gwinnett, Life Network–Colorado Springs, Clarity of South-Central Indiana, Pregnancy Alternatives Center, and Crisis Pregnancy Center of the Leigh Valley.

### Title X Federal Family Planning Program

The Family Planning Program was established in 1970 when Congress enacted Title X of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act and is the only domestic federal program dedicated solely to family planning and related preventive health services. Grants are required to provide “a broad range of acceptable and effective medically approved family planning methods (including natural family planning methods) and services (including pregnancy testing and counseling, assistance to achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, STI [sexually transmitted infection] services, preconception health services, and adolescent-friendly health services).”<sup>4</sup> HMA identified Title X Federal Family Planning Program funding awarded to two CPCs in 2019 and 2020 totaling \$4,760,000, including Obria and Beacon Christian Community Health Services.



## Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program

PL 111-117, the Consolidated Appropriations for FY 2010, included a new teenage pregnancy prevention (TPP) program that provides grants to public and private entities to implement a variety of evidence-based, medically accurate, age-appropriate models that seek to influence adolescent sexual behavior and reduce teen pregnancy.<sup>5</sup> HMA identified TPP program grant funding awarded to four CPCs from 2018 to 2023. The following types of TPP grants were awarded to CPCs:

- Testing New and Innovative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Strategies
- Replicating Effective Programs to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Advancing Equity in Adolescent Health through Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Optimally Changing the Map for Teen Pregnancy Prevention (Tier 1)
- Innovation and Impact Networks (Tier 2)

Obria, Thrive, Bethany Christian Services, and Women's Care Center of Erie County received a total of \$16,710,384 in TPP funding between 2017 and 2023.

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

The TANF block grant was established in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA, PL 104-193). Most TANF policies date back to that time, although in recent decades TANF has largely been funded on a short-term basis and some policy changes have been made through funding extensions. TANF's statutory purposes includes:<sup>6</sup>

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or homes of relatives
- End dependence on government benefits
- Reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Promote the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

HMA identified TANF funding awarded to CPCs in eight states during the period of 2017 through 2023, totaling approximately \$102,670,000. TANF funding totals are estimates that represent a lower limit of the total amounts of TANF funding likely spent on CPCs. State uses of substantial proportions of their TANF block grants are opaque, and it can be difficult to identify the sources of appropriations for CPCs in some states. The amounts included in the summary above could be confirmed from state budgets, other legislative or executive order language, TANF state plans, or reports from outside organizations or the media. Some TANF state plans specify that funding may be used for A2A programs or other purposes, including CPCs.

## DISCUSSION

From 2017 to 2023, \$13,144,501 to \$24,956,172 in federal funding (such as block grants, emergency funding, one-time funding, and multi-year funding) was distributed annually to CPCs. If CARES funding is included, a total of \$234,274,110 in federal funding was distributed to CPCs between 2017-2023.

**Between 2017-2023, identified funding to CPCs totaled \$429,220,820, including CARES Act funding, and \$139,837,665 exclusive of it.**

More than 650 CPCs in 49 states and Washington, DC, received federal funding between 2017 and 2023. These awards provided federal funding to nonprofit organizations that do not follow national, evidence-based standards and guidelines, including in the case of emergency funding (e.g., CARES Act or FEMA funding during a PHE or disaster response). A lack of transparency and accountability is notable in federal funding distribution to CPCs, especially with regard to transparency of state block grant funding and use of federal funding for CPCs. In several instances, CPCs were listed under several different names which could constitute duplicative funding of the same organization. Federal funding to CPCs may constitute non-allowable uses of such support based on the legislative intent and grant requirements of these programs.

People seeking reproductive healthcare expect medically accurate, timely, confidential care, counseling, and information. Federal funding should be directed to organizations that offer evidence-based, non-directive counseling and services so that individuals are able to make fully informed decisions about their medical care, reproductive lives, and futures.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – Tax Relief for Individuals and Businesses. Updated April 28, 2020. Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46279>. Accessed April 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Congressional Research Service. FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). Updated April 4, 2024. Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12026>. Accessed April 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Congressional Research Service. Federal Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs. Updated September 1, 2022. Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10877>. Accessed March 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Congressional Research Service. In Focus: Title X Family Planning Program. Updated June 8, 2023. Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10051#:~:text=Regulations%20require%20Title%20X%20projects,basic%20infertility%20services%2C%20STI%20%5Bsexually>. Accessed March 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Congressional Research Service. Federal Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs. Updated September 1, 2022. Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10877>. Accessed March 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Congressional Research. Service The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: A Legislative History. April 2, 2024. Available at: [https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44668#:~:text=The%20Temporary%20Assistance%20for%20Needy%20Families%20\(TANF\)%20block%20grant%20was,the%201960s%20through%20the%201990s](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44668#:~:text=The%20Temporary%20Assistance%20for%20Needy%20Families%20(TANF)%20block%20grant%20was,the%201960s%20through%20the%201990s). Accessed March 2024.