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February 7, 2018

Mr. Randall Nielson
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, GA

Ref: CDC-RFA-OT18-1804- Technical Assistance for Response to Public Health or Healthcare Crises Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control - OSTLTS

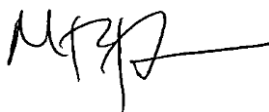
Dear Mr. Nielson:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), we enthusiastically support the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs' (AMCHP) proposal for the Technical Assistance for Response to Public Health or Healthcare Crises Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control – OSTLTS funding opportunity.

AMCHP is fully qualified to support governmental public health agencies in short and long-term emergencies via the OSTLTS funding mechanism. AMCHP has decades of experience supporting state and territorial public health entities in emergency situations impacting the maternal and child health population—our nation's future. For instance, AMCHP provided technical assistance, training, and funding for state health departments during the Zika virus response (2016-2017). As this was an example of a vector-borne disease epidemic, AMCHP could coordinate efforts with other national public health non-profit organizations, conduct needs assessments, serve as liaisons for federal and state partners, and meet the technical assistance needs of administrators and staff. AMCHP has a long-standing partnership with the CDC which is vital for rapid deployment of resources, communication, and evaluation of efforts. AMCHP will apply its preparedness framework to all-hazards.

ASTHO is well-positioned to recommend AMCHP for this OSTLTS funding opportunity. ASTHO and AMCHP together have a robust partnership network. Through our work on Zika response and the HRSA-funded Alliance for Innovation in Maternal & Child Health project, we have demonstrated the ability to leverage each other's partnerships and amplify existing response efforts. ASTHO and AMCHP partnered during the Zika Virus response to coordinate distributing information to state and territorial health departments through a variety of mechanisms. Through ASTHO's partnership, AMCHP could address some key Zika topics impacting preventing Zika virus transmission, including insurance coverage for MCH populations and access to highly effective contraception to prevent Zika-affected pregnancies. ASTHO and AMCHP coordinate our activities monthly to reduce duplication and increase alignment; this established partnership was especially valuable during an emergency response. ASTHO both supports and endorses AMCHP's application for funding.

Sincerely,



Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
Executive Director