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June 25, 2010

Audrey M. Yowell, PhD, MSSS  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau  
5600 Fishers Lane, 18A-39  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Yowell:

The recently enacted federal legislation on health care reform, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, includes provisions to support maternal, infant and child home visitation programs. The purpose of these provisions are to assist states in implementing evidence-based maternal, infant, and early childhood visitation models of care to improve maternal and child health and developmental outcomes.

On June 10, 2010, the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released the initial Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Home Visiting Grant Program. In response to this FOA, I am designating the Department of Public Health (DPH) as the agency which will apply for and administer home visiting program funds for Massachusetts. As the state Title V agency for the Commonwealth, DPH is committed to building comprehensive systems of care to promote maternal and infant health; has extensive experience in successfully implementing home-visiting programs for families; has experience coordinating and collaborating with federal and state partners and is able to assure accountability to complete the required needs assessment based on our experience completing the required Title V Needs Assessment. Because receiving Title V Block Grant funds is tied to completing a Home Visiting Needs Assessment, the DPH has a strong interest in ensuring that this is completed in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Sincerely,