

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

**Standard:** Each agency must submit a community outreach and education plan to the Rhode Island Department of Health, in accordance with 2001 Federal Guidelines (Part I, Section 6.9, page 12). Title X requires that each family planning project plan to provide for community education. Efforts should be based on an assessment of the needs of the community and should contain an implementation and evaluation strategy. Community education should serve to enhance community understanding of the objectives of the project, make known the availability of services to potential clients, and encourage continued participation by persons to whom family planning may be beneficial. Community education can be directed toward identifying local agencies and institutions which are likely to serve significant numbers of individuals in need of family planning, such as schools and social services agencies.

To facilitate community awareness of and access to family planning services, agencies must establish and implement planned activities whereby their services are made known to the community. In planning for community outreach and education, agencies should review the range of possible strategies and assess the availability of existing resources and materials. Community outreach activities should be reviewed annually and be responsive to the needs of the community. Agency community outreach & education efforts should compliment statewide efforts. Any educational or promotional materials utilized as a part of community education efforts must be reviewed by the Information and Education (I & E) Committee prior to dissemination.