ACF Administration for Children and Families	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
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	3. Originating Office: Family and Youth Services Bureau	
	4. Key Words: Title V, section 510, State Abstinence Education Grant Program, Abstinence until Marriage, State Flexibility	

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Territorial Agencies administering or eligible to administer grants in the State Abstinence Education Grant Program funded under Title V, Section 510 of the Social Security Act.

SUBJECT: Flexibility of States in Administering the State Abstinence Education Grant Program

REFERENCES: Title V, section 510 of the Social Security Act (abstinence education); Public Law (P.L.) 104-193.

PURPOSE: This is to inform State and Territorial agencies administering or eligible to administer Title V, section 510 abstinence education grants (State Abstinence Education Grant Program) of the flexibility of States[1] in implementing the program alongside other separate programs.

INFORMATION: **Federal Policy**

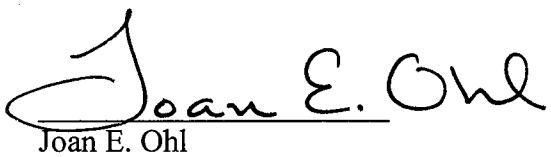
Government agencies and community-based organizations that receive State Abstinence Education Grant Program funds are not prohibited through any Federal policy from providing comprehensive sex education that includes contraceptive education through other separate programs.

Federal policy does not prohibit youth that participate in the State Abstinence Education Grant Program from accessing comprehensive sex education that includes contraceptive education through other separate school health classes or community-based programs.

[1] All references to a "State" or "States" include the Territories that administer or are eligible to administer Title V section 510 abstinence education grants.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in its efforts to reduce out-of-wedlock births and teen pregnancy, uses multiple approaches and does not focus exclusively on abstinence education. The State Abstinence Education Grant Program does not force an "either-or" decision for how states approach teen pregnancy prevention. State agencies and community organizations that receive Federal State Abstinence Education Grant Program funds are not precluded from implementing comprehensive sex education that includes contraceptive education in a separate time or location from the programs or services funded under their Title V award. In this way, abstinence education is another "tool in the toolbox" that HHS offers States in combating out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

INQUIRIES TO: Stan Koutstaal, Acting Director, Division of Abstinence Education



Joan E. Ohl
Commissioner