

For Immediate Release
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Organization Highlights Family Planning As Poverty Prevention
Workshop to be Presented at 2006 Women & Poverty Conference

Madison –The Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is scheduled to present a workshop entitled "Poverty Prevention: Family Planning Access" at the *Women & Poverty Conference* in Green Bay today. The *Women & Poverty Conference* brings together human services professionals, government officials, low-income advocates, educators, community leaders and low-income women to talk about the cause and solutions to poverty.

The workshop, led by WAWH Director Sara Finger, will focus on the direct link between women in poverty and their lack of access to family planning services and information. Workshop participants will be given current Wisconsin statistics outlining the high teen pregnancy and STD rates and will be presented with an overview of family planning and reproductive health programs in Wisconsin, along with a review of recent legislative efforts affecting family planning access for Wisconsin women.

"We can no longer ignore the alarming statistics associated with teen pregnancy rates and their correlation with the increasing poverty rates for women and families," said WAWH Director Sara Finger. "Rather than band-aid the consequences of poverty, we need to refocus our efforts and energy on poverty prevention. "

Every year, 820,000 teens get pregnant in the U.S.; here in Wisconsin, 10,000 teens become pregnant yearly. Only 30% of teenage mothers complete high school by age 30.

"Half of all teenage mothers and over three-fourths of unmarried teen mothers began receiving welfare within five years of the birth of their first child. It's no surprise that in Wisconsin, single women with children have the highest poverty rates," said Finger.

According to WAWH, a statewide coalition that is dedicated to ensuring all Wisconsin women receive comprehensive health care, increasing access to family planning services and information is one of the best opportunities Wisconsin has to prevent young women from becoming another poverty statistic.

"As a public health concern, we cannot allow reproductive health care to be marginalized from women's general health care. Therefore, we must remove all barriers to safe and effective methods of managing family size and preventing unintended pregnancies," said Finger.

The Women & Poverty Conference is organized by the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP), whose mission is to create economic self-sufficiency for Wisconsin's low-income households.

To learn more about WISCAP and the *Women & Poverty Conference*, visit the Web site at:
www.wiscap.org

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The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance women's health by creating an environment in which the public and elected officials confidently support women's health policy.
To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: www.supportwomenshealth.org