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*****Family Planning services still available on a sliding scale to eligible women

DALLAS--Despite what you may have heard, if you're female and in need of free medical help for reproductive problems, Maternal Health and Family Planning services are still available, says social worker Cassie Patterson.

Too many clients and potential clients of the Dallas agency have either been given the wrong information or misinterpreted literature about current practices of the agency that provides a broad spectrum of services to Dallas women, she adds.

Although all Family Planning services were provided free of charge to the client in the past, inflation has now made it necessary to charge women on a sliding scale. Many, however, are still eligible for services at no fee. This group includes women who are covered by Medicaid, who are not employed or whose income levels are below federal guidelines for fee cutoff. Many others may be eligible for reduced rates, depending on their income levels.

In order to qualify for free Family Planning services or the reduced-fee scale, a woman must bring either proof of non-employment or proof of employment verifying the amount of salary she receives per month. For information about who qualifies under the federal guidelines and how to show proof of either employment or non-employment, call 688-2938.

Family Planning clinics in Dallas are administered by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. They are located in Parkland Memorial Hospital (fourth floor); 301 Lancaster-Kiest Shopping Center; 2223 Singleton, Suite 227; 4400 Spring Rd.; 2600 N. Stemmons, Suite 111; and 5415 Maple.

"We are here to serve the women of Dallas County. If you have any questions about our services or fees, please call us," says Patterson.