



Happy Fall!

Please find below an overview of federal funding and action opportunities, recent Black Maternal Health Caucus press releases, the October Community Spotlight, our articles of the month, and general resources.

## Federal Funding and Action Opportunities

### Upcoming Event: PCORI's Biannual Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Virtual Briefing

The Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) will be hosting their Biannual Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Virtual Briefing on **Monday, November 18 at 3pm**. This briefing will focus on the maternal health workforce, including midwifery and doula care. Hear directly from a co-investigator and community partners involved in PCORI-funded research who will be sharing insights from their projects. If you would like to attend, you can register [here](#).

### Department of Health and Human Services Call for Commitments on Maternal Health:

In connection with the one-year anniversary of the Task Force on Maternal Mental Health launch, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is expanding efforts to advance maternal mental health and would like to learn about any new initiatives that have the potential to substantially improve maternal mental health awareness and services nationwide. HHS is asking interested organizations to submit commitments highlighting new initiatives that address challenges and barriers to maternal mental health care. HHS will collect commitments through **November 15, 2024, and announce them publicly in early 2025**.

**Who Can Apply:** Any interested organization

**Deadline to Apply:** 11/15/2024

**Learn more by reaching out to Cyntrice Bellamy ([Cyntrice.Bellamy@hhs.gov](mailto:Cyntrice.Bellamy@hhs.gov))**

### Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program:

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) has announced the re-competition of the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program. This nationwide group of mentored institutional career development programs trains junior faculty who have recently

completed postgraduate clinical training in obstetrics and gynecology and are committed to an independent research career in women's reproductive health. The goal of this program is to continue to build the national capacity of outstanding junior clinician-investigators who will strengthen the field of obstetrics and gynecology and contribute to the improvement of women's health.

**Who Can Apply:** Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments, and Federal Government.

**Deadline to Apply:** 11/15/2024

**Learn more** [here](#).

## Effect of HIV and Substance Use Comorbidity on the Placenta and Maternal Outcomes Department of Health and Human Services:

This grant is aimed at advancing research on the effects of HIV and anti-retroviral therapy (ART) on the growth, development, and functioning of the placenta in pregnant individuals with substance use or misuse. The funding opportunity seeks to explore how placental abnormalities impact maternal outcomes in people living with HIV (PLWH) who also struggle with substance use. Additionally, it aims to uncover the underlying mechanisms driving these effects, with a focus on improving maternal and fetal health outcomes.

**Who Can Apply:** Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments, and Federal Government.

**Deadline to Apply:** Letter of intent due by 10/15/2024 and full application due by 11/15/2024

**Learn more** [here](#).

## State Planning Grants to Promote Continuity of Care for Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiaries Following Incarceration:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released a new grant opportunity on September 27, 2024. These state planning grants shall be used to address operational capabilities and promote continuity of care for formerly incarcerated people who are eligible for child health assistance or pregnancy related assistance under CHIP. Funds may be used for addressing operational barriers and improving systems for continuity of care following incarceration in state-operated prisons, local, tribal, and county jails, and youth correctional or detention facilities.

**Who can Apply:** State governments, District of Columbia, and territorial governments, specifically Medicaid and CHIP agencies.

**Deadline to Apply:** Full application due by 11/26/2024

**Learn more** [here](#).

## Maternal and Child Health Public Health Catalyst Program:

This opportunity through the Health Resources and Services Administration will recruit and train diverse graduate students in MCH public health, expand MCH curriculum and degree offerings in schools and programs of public health where there is currently a lack of, or limited offerings, and build MCH faculty capacity within schools and programs of public health. This opportunity offers two Catalyst Program tracks, of which applicants must select one: Track 1: MCH Curriculum Start-up; Track 2: MCH Curriculum Expansion.

**Who can Apply:** Public institutions of higher education, Non-profit private institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations that are institutes of higher learning (education).

**Deadline to Apply:** All applications must be submitted no later than 1/23/2025

Learn more [here](#), or contact Katie Van Nuys (KVanNuys@hrsa.gov)

## Centers of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health, Education, Science, and Practice:

This opportunity through the Health Resources and Services Administration will strengthen and expand the MCH workforce by training graduate and post-graduate public health students in MCH, and advance MCH science, research, practice, and policy through a well-trained public health workforce.

**Who can Apply:** Public institutions of higher education, Non-profit private institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations that are institutions of higher learning.

**Deadline to Apply:** All applications must be submitted by 1/27/2025

Learn more [here](#), or by contacting Ayanna Johnson (ajohnson5@hrsa.gov)

## Understanding the Impact of Healthcare System and Clinician Factors on Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality:

This opportunity through the National Institutes of Health IMPROVE Initiative will support multidisciplinary and innovative intervention research to understand and address maternal mortality and maternal morbidity in the US, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and underserved rural populations. This research should help to bridge the gap between understudied healthcare systems and clinician factors across prenatal, perinatal and postpartum continuum of care.

**Who can Apply:** Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments (State, County, City or Township, Special District, Federally and Other than Federally Recognized Indian/Native American Tribal Governments), Federal Governments (Eligible Agencies and U.S. Territory or Possession).

**Deadline to Apply:** Next deadline for New Applications is 2/5/2025; latest date for New Applications in 10/5/2026

Learn more [here](#).

If you're applying for one of the funding opportunities above, don't forget to reach out to your Representative and Senators to see if they can provide a letter of support to bolster your application! To find your Members of Congress, visit

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>.

## October Community Spotlight

This month, we are excited to highlight our partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the 2024 M.O.M.S Tour (Maternal Outcomes Matter Shower) stop in Joliet, Illinois on October 13, 2024. Black Maternal Health Caucus Co-Chair Lauren Underwood joined Senator Tammy Duckworth and Reverend Dr. Que English, Director of the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, to host this community baby shower and resource fair. The community event featured educational materials on maternal health, connections to essential health services, activities for children, and free giveaways for expecting families, including diapers, strollers, car seats, and more.



*Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (center) speaks with organizers at the M.O.M.S. Tour in Joliet, Ill., October 13, 2024*

The M.O.M.S. Tour was launched in Detroit, Michigan in 2023 as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to maternal health and addressing the maternal health crisis in the United States. The Tour targets cities with high maternal mortality and morbidity rates, especially among Black and American Indian/Alaska Native populations, to provide these communities with resources, supplies and support from medical and mental health professionals for pregnant and postpartum women. At each stop on the Tour, families will have access to essential health-related services, health screenings, toolkits for maternal mental health issues and more. For more information on the M.O.M.S. Tour and to see if there will be a stop near you, go to <https://themomstour.info/>.

## Articles of the Month

**Nature:** [Prenatal maternal diabetes, comorbidities, and risk for neurodevelopmental impairment in the first two years](#)

**Kaiser Family Foundation:** [Here's Why Getting a Covid Shot During Pregnancy Is Important](#)

**Nature:** [Eliminating gender bias in biomedical research requires fair inclusion of pregnant women and gender diverse people](#)

**Women's Health Report:** [Increased risks of Maternal Mental Health Conditions Following the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

## General Resources

- All recorded sessions and leave behind materials from the Black Maternal Health Caucus 2024 Stakeholder Summit are available [here](#).
- The CDC's [Milestone Tracker App](#) is available for free through the App Store or Google Play. This app helps you to understand and track early childhood milestones.
- The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline is free, confidential, and here to help, 24/7, all expecting and new mothers. Call or text at 1-833-TLC-MAMA (or 1-833-853-6262). To learn more about the hotline or access shareable materials, please visit [here](#).
- The Office on Women's Health offers [resources](#) for finding support for postpartum depression.
- The [CDC Hear Her campaign](#) has resources for raising awareness of urgent maternal warning signs during and after pregnancy.

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