



Initiative: Regional Maternal and Infant Health Hubs

Overview

This initiative aims to reduce maternal and infant health disparities and improve access to high-quality care in rural and tribal areas in South Dakota by establishing regional hubs. These hubs focus on both clinical care and broader care coordination, supported by spoke sites that integrate community social-support networks.

Key Activities

- **Assessment, Planning, and Policy Alignment:** Conducting analyses to identify current maternal health gaps, regulatory and payment barriers, and workforce needs in maternal health across the state.
- **Clinical Transformation-Hub and Spoke Model:** Fund three healthcare entities to design and launch maternal and infant health hubs linked to local spoke sites.
- **Social Support Care Coordination:** Integrate social and clinical care in these health hubs to address non-medical barriers. Strengthen patient navigation and referral pathways.
- **Support community and Tribal organizations** to develop and sustain doula programs.

Partners & Stakeholders

Rural Hospitals and Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Primary Care Clinics and Physician Practices, Integrated Health Systems, Indian/Tribal Health Services, Community Organizations.

Amount Requested

- \$24,000,000 over five years
- 12/31/25-Draft RFP for assessment work, consultant to manage the hubs, and doula project. Draft RFI to gauge interest from health systems in becoming a hub. Use that information to develop RFP for hubs later in the year.
- 2/1/26- Release RFPs and RFI
- 5/1/26-12/31/26- Begin contracts for this initiative. Joint planning with DOH lead. Determine readiness of potential hub sites and release hub RFPs.

Expected Outcomes

- Increase percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.
- Increase the number of pregnant and postpartum women served through the hybrid hub and spoke model.
- Increase percent of women who receive referrals to address behavioral health, housing, nutrition, and other social needs.
- Increase number of doulas in the state.

Why This Matters

South Dakota continues to face high rates of infant and maternal mortality. This initiative will provide improved access to prenatal and postpartum care and other resources for women, creating stronger families and supporting the first 1,000 days of life.

This document is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the Rural Health Transformation Project, a financial assistance award totaling \$189,477,607.268, with 100% funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the SDDOH and SD DSS and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.