

## **I. Project Abstract**

Project Title: North Carolina Maternal Mental Health: MATTERS (Making Access to Treatment, Evaluation, Resources, and Screening Better) Program

Applicant Organization Name: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Address: 2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2001

Interim Project Director Name: Rebecca Moore-Patterson

Contact Phone Number: 919-707-5709

Email: [rebecca.moore-patterson@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:rebecca.moore-patterson@dhhs.nc.gov)

Requested funding level: \$650,000 annually

The North Carolina Maternal Mental Health MATTERS (Making Access to Treatment, Evaluation, Resources & Screening Better) Program will augment and strengthen systems for pregnant and postpartum women associated with maternal depression and related behavioral health disorders. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health (DPH), Women's and Children's Health Section (WCHS) is the state Title V agency charged to plan and support the State's perinatal care system and is the applicant agency for this funding opportunity announcement. WCHS with its key partners, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University School of Medicine, and its sister division/offices, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHDDSAS) and the Office of Rural Health, will work collaboratively to improve the behavioral health systems for pregnant and parenting women in our state.

This will be achieved through the following:

- Augment the North Carolina Pediatric Access Line (NC-PAL) operated by Duke University's School of Medicine to include perinatal services for providers of pregnant and postpartum women.
- Expand upon the work of the Department of Psychiatry with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to include telepsychiatry services for pregnant and postpartum women with their providers in rural areas of the state.
- Enhance the NC Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP) for hospital emergency departments to strengthen our system of care for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Increase utilization of the Local Management Entities (LMEs) – Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide services for pregnant and postpartum women.
- Build upon the work of North Carolina's Pregnancy Medical Home/Pregnancy Care Management statewide program to strengthen the system for treatment and follow-up care for pregnant and postpartum women to include provider training and support.