

## Rural Maternity Medical Home Access

## Project Abstract

*Rural Maternity Medical Home Access Consortium  
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The *Rural Maternity Medical Home Access (CONSORTIUM)* is comprised of six members with signed MOUs committing to long-term success of the project. The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA), Rural Health Innovation Collaborative, Sullivan County Family Practice, Valley Professionals Community Health Centers, and the Hamilton Center are the members comprising the CONSORTIUM. This project targets pregnant women in a six-county region in west central Indiana in the counties of Parke, Clay, Sullivan, Vigo, Greene, and Vermillion. These targeted counties are plagued by significant sociodemographic and economic disparities that, when combined, contribute to a high prevalence and incidence of risk-taking behaviors, poor lifestyle choices, and ultimately poor quality of life among pregnant women and their newborn infants.

Through this new innovative initiative, the CONSORTIUM will place more emphasis on reducing risks associated with low birthweight before pregnancy occurs through the implementation of an enhanced prenatal care program focusing on education, simulation, behavioral health by promoting the rural maternity medical home. Through an enhanced prenatal care program, the project will focus on improving ACCESS to enhanced perinatal care services through the development of the rural maternity medical home model and decreasing the infant mortality rate to promote healthy behaviors and optimize birth outcomes.

Given the broad longitudinal impact of early health interventions and outcomes, the opportunity to impact Indiana's infant mortality rates overall, as well as the negative consequences of suboptimal maternity care for the U.S. healthcare system and for society in general, it is of utmost importance to improve care for this population. To that end, the CONSORTIUM will be adopting the *CMS Innovation Initiative: Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns Project – Maternity Medical Home Enhanced Prenatal Care Model* implementing the **evidence-based practice model**, CenteringPregnancy <https://www.centeringhealthcare.org/what-we-do/centering-pregnancy>. The maternity medical home offers a means to organize and anchor other interventions and ensure coordination of often-fragmented social, behavioral, and health services.

We, the IRHA, are confident that our efforts will have a significant impact on the knowledge and skills of the healthcare providers who work in Indiana's Critical Access Hospitals and rural hospitals/clinics, and thus promote healthy behaviors and optimize birth outcomes.

*The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) is requesting a funding preference based Qualification #1: Health Professional Shortage Area due to its location in a county (Greene County) designated as a health professional shortage area (HPSA). In addition, five of the six counties' service areas during the grant period are designated as HPSAs and/or medically underserved areas. This includes Vermillion, Parke, Sullivan, Clay, and Greene counties. Supporting HPSA validation documentation is in Attachment 6 – Proof of funding Preference.*