



**FY 2023 Quality Improvement Fund - Maternal Health
(QIF-MH)
Funding Opportunity
(HRSA-23-027)
Technical Assistance Webinar for Applicants**

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)/Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



AGENDA

- Welcome from BPHC
- Funding Opportunity Overview
- Funding Requirements and Expectations
- Application Development
- Post-Award Expectations and Reporting
- Technical Assistance Resources
- Key Takeaways

Welcome from BPHC



Health Center Program Fast Facts

- Nearly **1,400** health centers operate more than **15,500** service delivery sites
- Over **30 million** patients
- Health centers provide **patient-centered, comprehensive, integrated care** by offering a range of services:
 - Primary medical, oral, and mental health services
 - Substance use disorder and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services
 - Enabling services such as outreach, case management, health education, interpretation services, and transportation

HRSA Health Center Program Mission

To improve the health of the nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by assuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services.



Source: Uniform Data System, 2021

Innovation at the Bureau of Primary Health Care

Quality Improvement Fund

- Unique one-time funding for health centers
- Test new ideas and learn from peers
- Transform primary care delivery
- Best practices scaled across Health Center Program

Prize Challenges

- Propose and test small-scale innovation addressing SDOH and poor health outcomes
- One-time seed funding to support costs for innovative strategies.
- [Challenge.gov](https://www.challenge.gov)

Training/Technical Assistance

- Build health Center Innovation capacity
- Primary Care Associations
- Health Center Controlled Networks
- National Training and Technical Assistance Partners



Activating and Accelerating Innovation

Quality Improvement Fund Guiding Principles

New Value

Equitable
Outcomes

Lived experience
& community
engagement

Health and social
needs

Greatest need

Demonstrate
capabilities

Rural challenges

Peer learning and
evaluation



Quality Improvement Fund

The Quality Improvement Fund (QIF) is a unique funding opportunity for health centers to test or pilot new ideas, learn from their peers, and transform primary care delivery.

FY 2022 Optimizing Virtual Care

- Launched in March 2022
- Intended to test new technologies and virtual care models to enhance primary care delivery.



FY 2023 Maternal Health

- New QIF focused on improving maternal health outcomes and reducing health disparities among health center patients.



Funding Opportunity Overview



Why Maternal Health?

- Despite advances in care, rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity have not improved in the US
- Disparities for African American/Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women:
 - 2-3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women
 - More at risk of pregnancy-related death compared to other racial groups
- Disparities for women living in rural areas due to:
 - Hospital closures
 - Loss of obstetric services in rural areas

FY 2023 QIF-MH Purpose

Improve maternal health and reduce racial/ethnic maternal health disparities by supporting health centers to partner with patients and the community to develop and pilot **innovative, patient-centered, scalable models of care** delivery that address both the clinical and health-related social needs of health center patients at highest risk of maternal morbidity and mortality.



Funding Overview

- One-Time Funding
- Total Funding: \$25 million
- Max per Award: \$2 million
- Expected Awards: approximately 12
- 2-Year Period of Performance (8/1/23 – 7/31/25)
- New Grant Award (under activity code Q8M)



Eligibility Requirements

- Existing H80 Health Center Program award recipients
- Meet the Grants.gov and HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) deadlines



Application Requirements

- Do **not exceed** the 80-page limit (excluding forms)
- Demonstrate how you will use QIF-MH funds to develop and implement evidence-informed innovation(s) to reduce racial/ethnic disparities and improve maternal health
- Present a robust plan for using input from patients, community members, and community partners.
- Innovation(s) must address one or more of the following stages of maternal health: preconception, prenatal, intrapartum, and/or postpartum.



Program Requirements and Expectations



QIF-MH Funding Requirements (1 of 2)

Develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-informed and **innovative maternal health care strategies**

Evidence-Informed Strategies

- Build on or spin off from existing evidence
- Differ from previous approaches or strategies
- Aim to improve health care delivery and maternal health indicators
- Address and advance health equity



Applicants can include more than one innovation as a part of their proposed project

QIF-MH Funding Requirements (2 of 2)

- Incorporate **input from community members and health center patients** who have experienced maternal health barriers
- Engage in **continuous quality improvement** to identify successes, learn from failures, and adapt and improve your project accordingly
- Actively participate in **collaborative learning and evaluation activities** with other award recipients and the coordination and evaluation center
- **Advance health equity**, ensuring underserved populations are not further marginalized by proposed innovation(s)



Example Allowable Activities & Costs

- Leveraging community partnerships to address health-related social needs of patients
- Patient engagement and outreach
- Patient-centered care coordination
- Staff education and training
- Provision of clinical services
- Integration, development, enhancement of digital platforms and tools
- Supplies and equipment to support innovation(s)
- Minor alteration/renovation (up to \$400,000)

See NOFO for additional information



Ineligible Costs

See NOFO for additional information



Costs already supported with Health Center Program funding



Facility or land purchases



Construction activities, additions, or expansions



EHRs that are not ONC certified

Application Development



Two-Tier Application Submission



Application Components – Grants.gov

- Project Abstract Summary
- SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance
- Project/Performance Site Locations
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form
- Key Contacts

All Grants.gov forms are required



Application Components – EHBs

Applications must not exceed 80 pages

- Project Narrative*
- Budget
 - SF-424A: Budget Information Form*
 - Budget Narrative*
 - ✓ Table of Personnel to be Paid with Federal Funds
- Program Specific Forms & Attachments
 - Form 1B: Funding Request Summary*
 - Form 5A: Services Provided (view-only)
 - Scope Overview Form*
 - Project Plan Form*
 - Equipment List and Minor A/R Forms
 - Attachment 1: Letters of Partnership*
 - Attachment 2: Other Relevant Documents

* Indicates required component



Project Narrative & Review Criteria

Scoring

**Need
(20 pts)**

**Response – including
Project Plan Form
(35 pts)**

**Collaboration
(10 pts)**

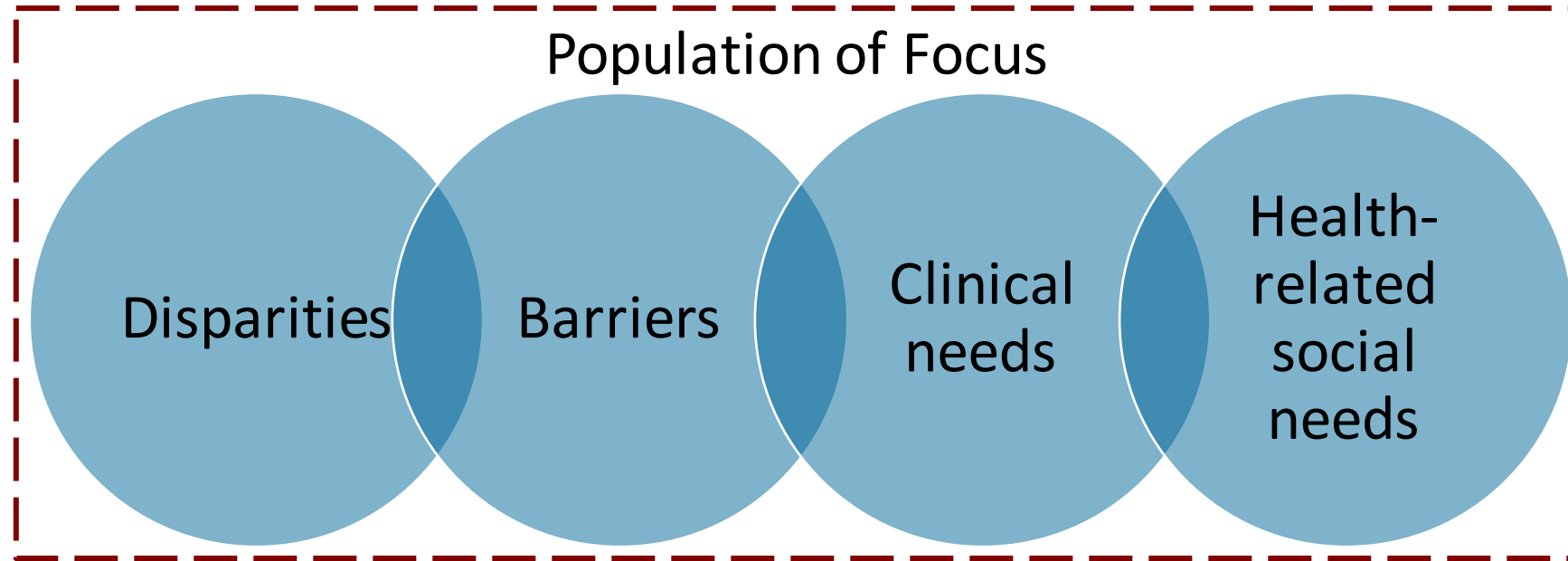
**Resources/
Capabilities
(20 pts)**

**Evaluative
Measures
(10 points)**

**Support
Requested
(5 pts)**



Project Narrative – Need (20 points)



Project Narrative – Response (20 of 35 points)

- Rationale for targeting specific needs
- Evidence-base for proposed innovation(s)
- How innovation offers new solutions to address barriers and is scalable
- Document involvement of health center staff, patients and community members, partners
- Plan to proactively support culturally-affirming, equitable maternal health care
- How contracted services and/or formal written referral arrangements support project, as applicable
- How minor alteration/renovation activities and/or equipment purchases support project, as applicable



Project Narrative - Project Plan Form (15 of 35 points)

The Project Plan Form serves as overview to guide project implementation



- ✓ **Problem statement**
- ✓ **Goals of project**
- ✓ **Population of focus**
- ✓ **Community engagement approach**
- ✓ **Barriers** that impact maternal health outcomes for your population of focus
- ✓ **Proposed innovation(s)** and related activities that address the named barriers
 - Multiple innovations can be added to the form
- ✓ **Evaluative measure(s)** that will assess the success of the project

Project Narrative - Project Plan Form

Add Innovation

Note(s):

Provide a detailed description of each innovation in a separate entry. For each innovation entry, include:

- A narrative description of the innovation,
- Which stage of maternal health it will address, and
- A complete activity table with the following information: the specific barriers the innovation will address, the activities you will implement to carry out the proposed innovation, and the evaluative measures you will use to assess the success of the innovation.

Barriers, activities, and/or evaluative measures may be repeated across innovations, as relevant. A one-to-one match between barriers, activities and evaluative measures is not required. Descriptions in the Innovation Tables should align with responses provided in the Project Narrative and with the Project Overview section of this Project Plan Form. After you have entered all information about your innovation, click 'Save and Continue' to return to the Project Plan Form. Your innovation information will appear in a table format on the main Project Plan Form. Innovations will be assigned a number according to the order in which they are added.

Fields with * are required

Innovation Proposal

* Provide a brief narrative overview of the proposed innovation.

* Which stage(s) of maternal health will the proposed innovation directly address? Select the stage(s) of maternal health that best align with the specific innovation described above. (select all that apply)

- Preconception
- Prenatal
- Intrapartum
- Postpartum

Barriers

* List the specific barriers to optimal maternal health for your population of focus that the proposed innovation will address. Specific barriers described below should align with the broad categories of barriers selected in the Project Overview section of this form.

Innovative Activities

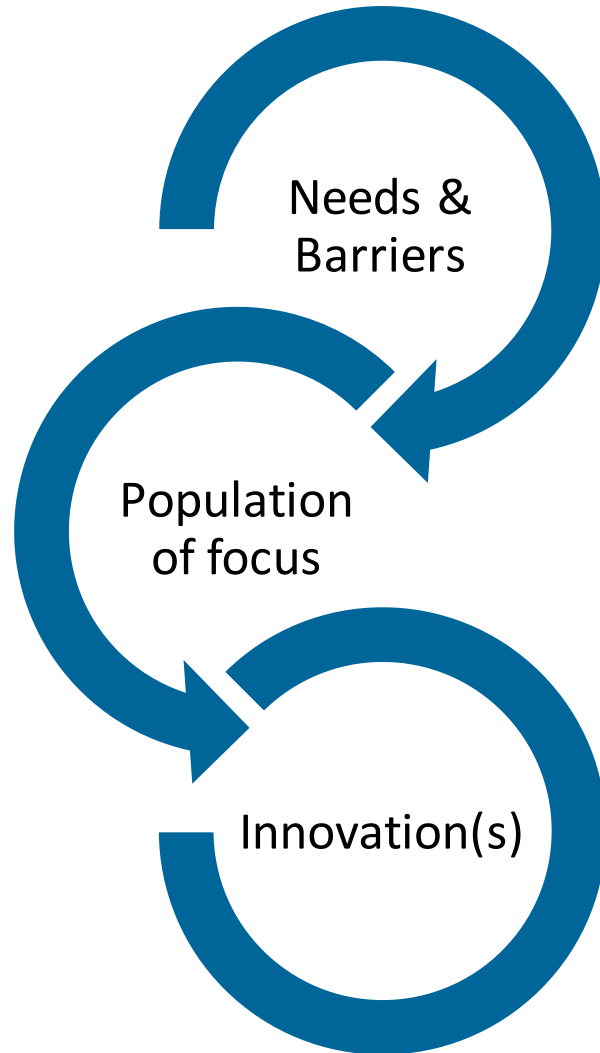
* Describe activities you will take to achieve the proposed innovation and address the identified barriers. List as many activities as needed to fully describe your proposed innovation.

Evaluative Measures

* List the evaluative measures you will use to assess the success of your innovation. Your project must include at least one measure of patient experience.



Need and Response



Link the NEED and RESPONSE sections of the Project Narrative, including on the Project Plan Form

- Identify needs and barriers of the population of focus
- Proposed evidenced-based innovation(s) to address identified needs and barriers of the population of focus

Project Narrative – Collaboration (10 points)

- **Collaborate with community members and partners and health center patients to:**
 - Identify barriers
 - Inform and adapt of innovation(s)
 - Strengthen care coordination, community engagement, and population health
- **Complement or build on state/local efforts** to improve maternal health



Each application **must include at least one letter of partnership** from a community partner

Project Narrative - Resources/Capabilities (20 points)

Current
maternal
health care
delivery model

Prior
experience –
clinical quality
improvement

Capacity to
implement,
adapt, and
monitor

Project Narrative - Evaluative Measures (10 points)

GOALS

- ✓ Realistic
- ✓ Reflective of patient input
- ✓ Achieve maternal health improvements

EVALUATIVE MEASURES

Select your own and describe:

- ✓ Source
- ✓ Data collection method and frequency
- ✓ Use for innovation(s) adaptation
- ✓ One patient experience measure per innovation
- ✓ One community engagement measure per innovation

Adapted from [UDS](#), [Healthy People 2030](#), [HEDIS](#), or other sources, or developed specifically for this project



Project Narrative – Support Requested (5 points)

- Align all documents presented as part of the budget, including:
 - SF-424A
 - Budget Narrative
 - ✓ Personnel Justification Table, if applicable
 - Form 1B: Funding Request Summary
 - Additional applicable forms
 - ✓ Equipment List Form
 - ✓ Minor A/R Forms

Post-Award Expectations and Reporting



Participation and Reporting Expectations

Participation Expectations

- Peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing with QIF-MH cohort.
- Continuous quality improvement with patients and community.
- Collaboration with coordination and evaluation center.

Reporting Expectations

Progress reports* that provide qualitative and quantitative data on:

- Accomplishments and barriers.
- HRSA and contractor-developed evaluative measures.
- Recipient-developed evaluative measures.

Participation and reporting will support assessment of QIF-MH innovations':

- Effectiveness.
- Cost and benefit.
- Potential for scalability.
- Impact on access, outcomes, and clinical and social needs.
- Strategies for maintenance and sustainability.

*HRSA will detail reporting frequency and specific measures in issuance of Notice of Award.



Technical Assistance Resources



QIF-MH Technical Assistance Webpage

QIF-MH NOFO

Presentation Slides
and Recording

Sample Forms

FAQs

Other Resources

Contact Info for
Further Support

[See the QIF-MH Technical Assistance Webpage](#)



TA Contacts

Application Questions

- [BPHC Contact Form](#)
 - Under *Funding*, select *Applications for NOFOs*
 - Select *Quality Improvement Fund (QIF)*
 - Enter contact information
- 301-594-4300

Grants.gov Issues

- [Grants.gov Contact Center](#)
- 800-518-4726

EHBs Issues

- [BPHC Contact Form](#)
 - Under *Technical Support*, select *EHBs Tasks/EHBs Technical Issues*
 - Select relevant issue
 - Enter contact information
- 1-877-464-4772

Budget Questions

- Joi Grymes-Johnson
- jgrymes@hrsa.gov



Key Takeaways

- This funding requires you to develop, pilot, evaluate and help disseminate, innovative, evidence-informed, patient-centered, scalable models of care delivery that:
 - Reduce racial/ethnic disparities in maternal health
 - Can be adapted and scaled across the Health Center Program
- QIF-MH innovation(s) and measures of success:
 - Respond to social needs and health disparities
 - Include input from patients, community members, and community partners
 - Incorporate continuous quality improvement
- *Ongoing H80 compliance is critical:* QIF-MH funding will not be awarded to any applicant with a 30-day program requirement-related condition



Key Dates

Grants.gov Due Date: December 5, 2022 at 11:59 pm ET



Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) Due Date: January 13, 2023 at 5:00 pm ET



Project Period Start Date: August 1, 2023



Project Period End Date: July 31, 2025



Questions



Thank You!

Quality Improvement Fund- Maternal Health Technical Assistance Team

Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



[BPHC Contact Form](#)

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