



Illinois Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) Program, 2024-2029



BACKGROUND

The Illinois Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) Program is a federally funded statewide project focused on improving maternal health outcomes in Illinois. Its purpose is to reduce severe maternal morbidity and maternal mortality through strategic planning, improvements in data collection and analysis, and implementing innovations in service delivery. This project is housed at the University of Illinois Chicago. It was first funded from 2019-2024 (referred to as I PROMOTE-IL) and was re-funded for 2024-2029.

FUNDING DETAILS

The Illinois MHI program is one of 42 state MHI programs funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Illinois will receive approximately \$1.5 million each year of the project period (2024-2029).

LEADERSHIP

The Illinois MHI Team is led by Dr. Liz Glassgow and Dr. Rachel Caskey (co-principal investigators) and includes leadership from Abigail Holicky (Executive Director).

PARTNERS

The Illinois MHI Program is implemented in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health's Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant Program.

A Maternal Health Advisory Board, comprised of Illinois moms, was established in 2024 to advise the MHI Program on activity implementation and evaluation.

CONTACT

If you have general questions about the Illinois MHI Program, please contact Abigail Holicky at holicky2@uic.edu.

If you have questions about the Task Force or the Maternal Health Advisory Board, please contact Magale Avitia at maviti4@uic.edu.

If you have questions about the Learning Collective or would like to join this group, please contact Lauren Sayah at Isayah2@uic.edu.



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PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: ESTABLISH A STATE-FOCUSED MATERNAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

- 1.1** Establish a Maternal Health Task Force to serve as a coordinating body for advancing maternal health within Illinois.
- 1.2** Conduct a landscape evaluation of the state's maternal health systems, including a review of available state-level plans and data sources, to describe state-specific efforts and opportunities to address maternal health outcomes.
- 1.3** In partnership with the Task Force, develop and implement a maternal health strategic plan to propose and elevate innovations to improve maternal health outcomes for all women in Illinois.

Note: The Task Force (1.1) is comprised of at least 15 individuals representing various state agencies, community-based organizations, and clinical institutions. One member of the Maternal Health Advisory Board (cross cutting component) also participates on the Task Force. Task Force participation is by invite only.

GOAL 2: IMPROVE STATE-LEVEL DATA AND SURVEILLANCE

- 2.1** In partnership with the Illinois Maternal Mortality Review Committees, lead efforts to improve the committees' development of innovative recommendations to assist in moving data to action and support implementation efforts to prevent maternal deaths.
- 2.2** Expand the storytelling project to ensure the voices and experiences of perinatal women are heard, elevated, and incorporated into maternal health prevention work.
- 2.3** Support state-led efforts to improve dissemination, understanding, and use of maternal health data.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE AND EXECUTE INNOVATION IN MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

- 3.1** Support the maternal health workforce by establishing the Learning Collective to foster cross-sector collaboration and provide ongoing communication and learning opportunities to members.
- 3.2** Support the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative's (ILPQC) Perinatal Mental Health Initiative and its efforts to increase and expand awareness and utilization of perinatal mental health services among providers and patients.
- 3.3** Implement BrightBridge IL, a new integrated rapid access behavioral health program for Federally Qualified Health Centers to increase access to mental health services in rural/low-resourced areas of the state.

Note: The Learning Collective (3.1) has about over 250 members and membership is open to all those working in or interacting with the Illinois maternal health system.

CROSS CUTTING COMPONENTS

- Establish a Maternal Health Advisory Board (MHAB) comprised of Illinois moms to guide and inform MHI program activities.
- Plan and execute performance measurement, program evaluation, and continuous quality improvement to demonstrate progress and impact.

Note: The Maternal Health Advisory Board has up to 12 members and participation is by invite only.