

Appendix for Maine's Rural Maternity Crisis: A Policy Agenda

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Major Types of Midwives Practicing in Maine

	Certified nurse midwife (CNM)	Certified professional midwife (CPM)
Most common settings where profession attends births	Births in hospitals	Homes and independent birth centers
Minimum degree required for entry to midwife program	Bachelor's degree and an RN license	High school diploma
Minimum degree required for certification	Graduate degree	Apprenticeship model education resulting in demonstrated competencies

Source: ACNM (American College of Nurse-Midwives). 2021. Comparison of Certified Nurse-Midwives, Certified Midwives, and Certified Professional Midwives. <https://legacy.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000008275/CNM-CM-CPM%20Comparison%20Chart%20June%202021%20Final.pdf>

CURRENT FEDERAL GRANT-FUNDED STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

MOM: Since 2021, MaineMOM (Maternal Opioid Misuse) is a federal CMS-funded grant to Maine DHHS MaineCare that funds a model that improves care for perinatal women with opioid use disorder and their infants by integrating substance use treatment services with perinatal and postpartum care. Partners in 18 sites work together across Maine to deliver MaineMOM Services.¹

RMOMS: The Maine RMOMS is a federal HRSA-funded (Health Resources and Services Administration) four-year grant, which started in 2022. A partnership among all Maine rural maternity hospitals and other key organizations, Maine RMOMS addresses the health needs of rural perinatal patients with the overarching strategies of telehealth, education and training, and workforce development. Examples of Maine RMOMS initiatives include launching statewide perinatal telepsychiatry services, perinatal tele-nutrition services, remote perinatal patient monitoring for hypertension, perinatal psychiatry educational webinars for providers, obstetrical and neonatal training for rural professionals including in hospitals with closed maternity units, and feasibility studies for family medicine obstetric physicians and nurse midwife programs. The grant ends in the fall of 2026.²

TMaH: Starting in spring 2025, the TMaH Model (Transforming Maternal Health) is a 10-year federal CMS-funded program awarded to Maine DHHS to expand access to a professionally diverse maternal health workforce (e.g., doulas, community health workers, social workers); home monitoring for issues like diabetes and hypertension; full risk assessments and referrals; patient safety protocols; and birth-friendly settings. The focus is on perinatal women with MaineCare and will include plans for different payment models.³

PQC4ME: Since 2018, the Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Maine (PCQ4ME) has focused on working with many partners across Maine's perinatal system of healthcare to implement quality improvement projects statewide. In recent years, PCQ4ME has hosted initiatives on hypertension, and now is focused on perinatal mental health. PQC4ME is based in the Maine Medical Association's Center for Quality Improvement (CQI) and has received federal funding through Maine DHHS as well the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (ACOG/AIM) quality improvement bundles.⁴

MERGE Collaborative: Launched in 2023 with state and federal grants, the Maine Rural Graduate Medical Education (MERGE) Collaborative includes the state's four graduate medical education hospital-based health systems working together and with others to provide rural training sites for resident physicians and medical students. In 2025, a federal HRSA grant allowed MERGE to start rural obstetric training electives for obstetric and family medicine residents.⁵

1 "MaineMOM," Maine DHHS, <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/providers/mainemom>; MaineMOM, <https://www.mainemom.org/>

2 "Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies (RMOMS) Program," Health Resources and Services Administration, <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/grants/rural-community/rmoms>

3 <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/transforming-maternal-health-tmah-model>

4 "What is PQC4ME," Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Maine (PQC4ME), <https://pqc4me.org/>

5 "The Rural Obstetric Training Intensive," MERGE Collaborative, <https://mergecollaborative.org/roti/>