

NC DHHS Notice of Funding Availability Reporting Form

DHHS Division/Office issuing this notice: NC Division of Public Health (DPH), Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section (WICWS), Infant and Community Health Branch

Date of this notice: September 30, 2026

RFA Title: Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health Program

Purpose- Description of function of the program and reason why it was created:
The Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health (ICO4MCH) Program was established in 2015 to provide a competitive grants process among local health departments (LHDs) to provide funding to improve birth outcomes, reduce infant mortality, and improve health among children aged 0-5. Grants will be awarded for a three-year period and will be administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health-Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section-Infant and Community Health Branch, in collaboration with the Division of Child and Family Well-Being.

Description- Brief statement of nature and scope of the program:

ICO4MCH provides funding to local health departments to implement a multi-factorial, comprehensive population-level maternal and child health initiative. The program addresses three aims- 1) to improve birth outcomes, 2) reduce infant mortality, and 3) improve health among children aged 0-5 across selected NC communities.

Eligibility- Brief statement of the type (private non-profit, public) and qualifications of the organizations eligible to apply for funding:

Only Local Health Departments and Districts are eligible to apply to this RFA if they meet the criteria outlined below. Given the amount of funding available, this RFA process will be competitive. DPH encourages and will accept applications from single or multi-county local health departments (LHDs) that meet eligibility criteria. For a multi-county application that includes different local health departments/districts, one county must take the lead in submitting the application and be responsible for ensuring completion and compliance with all required deliverables and reporting requirements outlined under this RFA.

Eligibility criteria are:

1,000 or more births in 2024 in the county or counties that the single or multi-county local health departments will implement the selected evidence-based strategies (EBS) in

AND

1. At least **ONE** of the following:

- Combined 2022-2024 infant mortality rate must be 10.1 or higher per 1,000 live births and 20 or more infant deaths
- Combined 2022-2024 infant mortality disparity ratio must be 2.0 or higher
- Percent of children <5 years of age living in poverty must be 28.4% or higher (ACS 2020-2024 data) or
- Percent of children <19 years of age who are uninsured must be 8.0% or higher (2023 SAHIE)

LHDs should determine their eligibility, either as a single county or multi-county project, by assessing the data above using the tool provided by DPH in September 2026. The eligibility tool can be found online: <https://wicws.dph.ncdhhs.gov>.

How to Apply:

The RFA announcement and instructions for receiving the RFA will be posted at the following DHHS website, <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/grant-opportunities/public-health-grant-opportunities>, on **September 30, 2026** and may be sent to local health departments via email and/or the Program's website.

All prospective applicants are encouraged to attend an **Applicant Conference on 10/9/2026 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom**.

Zoom meeting link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1651112905> Meeting ID: 165 111 2905

Any entity that plans to submit an application shall submit a Notice of Intent no later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 14, 2026**.

Written questions concerning the specifications in this Request for Applications will be received until 5:00 p.m. on **October 14, 2026**. As an addendum to this RFA, a summary of all questions and answers will be posted at <http://whb.ncpublichealth.com/> by **October 21, 2026**.

Deadline for Submission: By **5:00pm on Friday November 6, 2026**

How to Obtain Further Information:

Email Shelby Weeks at Shelby.Weeks@dhhs.nc.gov.