

PROMOTING SAFE AND RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE ACROSS ILLINOIS

Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award Designation

At the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC), we are committed to improving maternal and newborn care and outcomes and reducing disparities to help make Illinois the best place to give birth and be born for all mothers and their families. ILPQC launched the Promoting Vaginal Birth Initiative and Birth Equity Initiative with birthing hospitals across Illinois between 2020 and 2024. Hospitals are now working on sustaining the important improvements in care achieved in these initiatives.



The Award

The Illinois 2025 Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award Designation Program

recognizes birthing hospitals focused on quality improvement in maternity care and sustaining the Promoting Vaginal Birth and Birth Equity Initiatives, including: ILPQC participation, engaging patient and community partners to improve care, maintaining NTSV cesarean rates below goal and reducing NTSV cesarean disparities.

Support for the Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Designation Program, including hospital mini-grants and monetary awards, is provided by the BCBSIL Special Beginnings® program

Hospitals achieving the award designation criteria will receive:

- Statewide recognition of birthing hospital quality excellence.
- \$10,000 to \$20,000 toward your OB department's quality improvement efforts.

Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Learn More



**The Illinois 2025
Birthing Hospital
Quality Excellence
Award Designation
Program**

Criteria for the Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award

Designation criteria achieved by September 30, 2025:

Actively participating with ILPQC

Attend ILPQC webinars (Jan–Sep 2025)

At least one member of your QI team should attend five or more (Quality Designation: Jan 13, Mar 3, June 9, Sep 8; PMH: Jun 23, Jul 28, Sep 22)

Attend ILPQC in-person meetings twice per year

Nurse champion at ILPQC face-to-face meeting and annual conference; Provider champion at ILPQC face-to-face meeting and/or annual conference

Educating clinical teams and new hires

Educating on respectful care and reducing stigma and bias

Covering topics such as active listening, shared decision making, trauma-informed care and reducing stigma and bias

Engaging patients and the community

Engage a patient partner in the quality improvement team

Host two or more Respectful Care Breakfasts per year

Complete at least one by application deadline (September)

Coordinate QI efforts by sharing QI resources

With outpatient prenatal clinics, federally qualified health centers and other community health clinics

Achieving aims and reducing disparities

NTSV cesarean rate $\leq 23.6\%$

Stratified NTSV cesarean rate $\leq 25\%$ for all groups

(race, ethnicity, insurance status)

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) referrals

Link $\geq 70\%$ of patients screening positive to community resources

Participate in QI support with ILPQC

One-to-one QI support call or QI office hours

Birth Equity and Promoting Vaginal Birth Sustainability Plans submitted

Submit monthly PVB/Birth Equity sustainability data (Jan–Sep 2025)

Birth Equity initiative structure measures in place

Review labor and delivery policies

To promote a doula-friendly unit culture

Sustain Patient-Reported Experience Measure (PREM) Survey

For 10% or more deliveries per month (or at least 15 deliveries per month)

Build relationships

With community-based doulas, home visiting programs and other community resources to improve patient referral

Regularly review stratified NTSV cesarean data, identify and take action on disparities

By race, ethnicity and insurance status

Timeline for Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence

Designation Program

JANUARY 2025

- } ILPQC Birth Quality Excellence Designation launch webinar

FEBRUARY 2025

- } Email sent to hospital leadership
- } Data form live
- } Mini-grant application opened

MARCH 2025

- } Birth Equity sustainability/ Birth Quality Designation call
- } Mini-grant application deadline: April 1, 2025

APRIL–MAY 2025

- } Mini-grant funds distributed to hospitals

SUMMER 2025

- } Implementation of mini-grant strategies
- } QI support from ILPQC

SEPTEMBER 2025

- } All 2025 data due
- } Birth Quality Designation application due

NOVEMBER 2025

- } Announce 2025 Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award recipients at ILPQC Annual Conference

For more information contact info@ilpqc.org