

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. As hospitals engage with ILPQC on upcoming QI initiatives, such as improving optimal Perinatal Mental Health care, key elements of these care improvements will be included.



The Award

The Illinois 2026 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

All Illinois birthing hospitals are eligible to receive mini-grants up to \$3,750 to support QI efforts.

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 2026
Birthing Hospital
Quality Excellence
Award Designation
Program**

Criteria for the Illinois Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award

Designation criteria achieved by September 30, 2026:

Actively participating with ILPQC

Attend ILPQC Webinars (Sep–Aug 2026)

At least one member of your QI team should attend ten or more monthly ILPQC team webinars.

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

Clinical Equity and Patient Experience Training

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

Participate in QI support with ILPQC

2 or more QI support contacts with ILPQC, including office hours & at least one 1:1 support call

Submit monthly PVB/Birth Equity sustainability data

12 months of monthly data from 09/2025-08/2026

Demonstrate stratified data review and actions to address identified disparities.

Perinatal Mental Health Training Certification Goals

Achieve completion of PMH training by ≥80% of OB providers, OB nurses, and ER clinical staff (consistent with state requirement)

Engaging patients and the community

Engage a patient partner in the quality improvement team

Coordinate QI efforts by Sharing ILPQC QI Resources

with outpatient prenatal clinics, federally qualified health centers, and other prenatal care sites

Host 2 or more Respectful Care Breakfasts per year

Sep 2025 - Aug 2026

Sustain Patient-Reported Experience Measure (PREM) Survey

For 10% or more deliveries per month (or at least 15 deliveries per month); analyze data stratified by race/ethnicity & insurance and take action to reduce disparities

Build Relationships

with community-based doulas, home visiting programs & other community resources to improve patient referral

Achieving aims and reducing disparities

NTSV cesarean rate ≤ 25%

Stratified NTSV cesarean rate ≤ 25% across groups

(ie BIPOC vs NH white, or public vs private insurance)

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) referrals

Link ≥ 70% of patients screening positive to community resources

Anxiety & Depression Screening

Achieve at least 80% documentation of depression & anxiety screenings using validated tools

Timeline for Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Designation Program

JANUARY 2026

- 2026 ILPQC Birth Quality Excellence Designation Launch Webinar held

FEBRUARY 2026

- Update to dashboard in progress

MARCH 2026

- Mini-grant application deadline: April 3, 2026

- Special PREM Webinar on April 14th at 12:00 PM

APRIL-MAY 2026

- Mini-grant funds distributed to hospitals

SUMMER 2026

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

SEPTEMBER 2026

- September 2025 - August 2026 data due
- Birth Quality Designation application due

NOVEMBER 2026

- Announce 2026 Birthing Hospital Quality Excellence Award recipients at ILPQC Annual Conference

For more information contact info@ilpqc.org