



# North Carolina Community Health Center Association

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## PATCH-NC Frequently Asked Questions

### What is PATCH-NC?

Perinatal Access to Care and Health in North Carolina (PATCH-NC) expands access to high-quality maternity care in rural North Carolina by strengthening community health centers, look-alikes, rural health centers, and local health departments to expand services to deliver coordinated prenatal and postpartum care close to home. North Carolina Community Health Centers, Health Center Look-Alikes, Rural Health Centers, and Health Departments serving populations in North Carolina counties identified as maternal health deserts or low-access locations (based on 2026 March of Dimes data) will be eligible to submit a competitive application for funding.

North Carolina Community Health Center Association leads this project in partnership with Nurture NC and with funding support from The Leon Levine Foundation.

### What model of care does PATCH-NC support?

PATCH-NC supports a shared maternity care model where prenatal and postpartum services happen in the medical home in a community clinic with partners and specialists providing delivery and support for escalating maternity needs.

### What are the expected outcomes?

- Increase provision of maternity care in maternity deserts and low-access counties in North Carolina
- Increased number of family physicians and their teams (FNPs, PAs, CNMs) providing prenatal care in rural communities
- Improved timeliness of prenatal and postpartum care
- Improved maternal and infant health outcomes and reduced preventable complications
- Strengthened rural maternity care workforce pipeline

### Who is eligible to participate?

North Carolina community health centers, health center look-alikes, rural health centers, and health departments are qualified to apply. The grant specifically seeks to identify counties where no or extremely limited prenatal care services are available.

### We already provide prenatal care but would like to expand our access. Can we apply?

Yes. While the grant was designed to increase access in counties where there is currently no access, consideration will be given to counties with very limited prenatal care access.



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There is prenatal care being offered in our county, but only for people with insurance. Can we apply?

Yes. While the grant was designed to increase access in counties where there is currently no access, consideration will be given to counties with very limited prenatal care access.

Our county is not listed as a desert or low access county, but no one offers prenatal care. Can we apply?

Yes. While the data from the March of Dimes serves as the project's starting point, the project is in the process of verifying whether providers are currently providing prenatal care in the listed counties. If you are in a county not listed and believe there is no one offering prenatal care in your county, please contact your local health department to verify this prior to submitting an application.

Can we partner with another organization to apply?

Yes. Community collaboration is encouraged. One entity should apply as the lead, however.

Can a new program or organization apply if prenatal care services are not yet operational?

Yes. If the organization is committed to expanding its scope of practice to begin prenatal care in the first quarter of 2027, it would be an ideal applicant.

Can funding support telehealth prenatal care services?

Yes. Funding in the "innovations" bucket can be used to support telehealth as a supplement to in-office care. The expectation is that there is a physical location in the county providing the care.