



# State Maternal Health Innovation

*Program Overview*

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**Division of Women's Health;**

**Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)**

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**



# Background

Cooperative agreement funded through Title V of the Social Security Act, SPRANS (Special Projects of Regional and National Significance)



Began in 2019 funding 9 states -> now fund a total of 42 states



Purpose: Reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity (SMM) by:

**Improving access to care** throughout the preconception, prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods

**Enhancing state maternal health surveillance and data capacity**

**Identifying and implementing innovative interventions** to improve maternal mortality and SMM outcomes



# Our Approach



**NEEDS  
ASSESSMENTS**



**COLLABORATION**



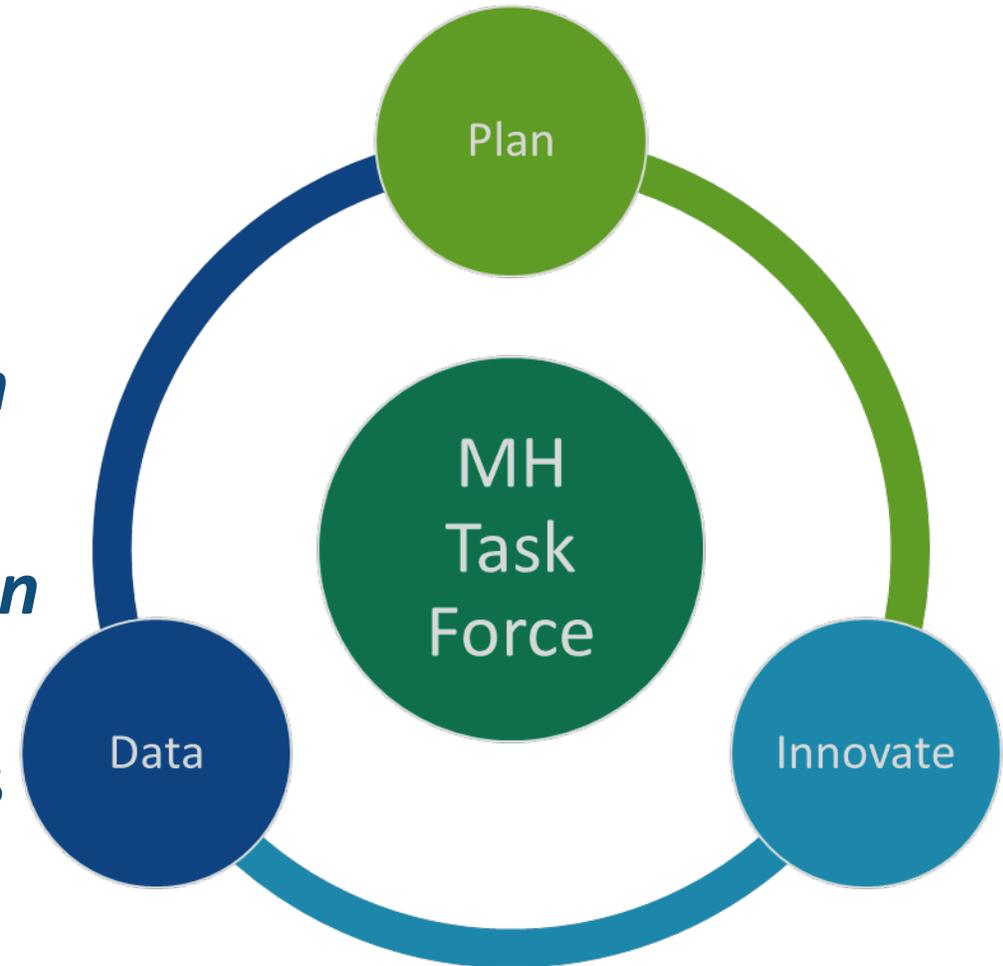
**CULTURAL  
RESPONSIVENESS**



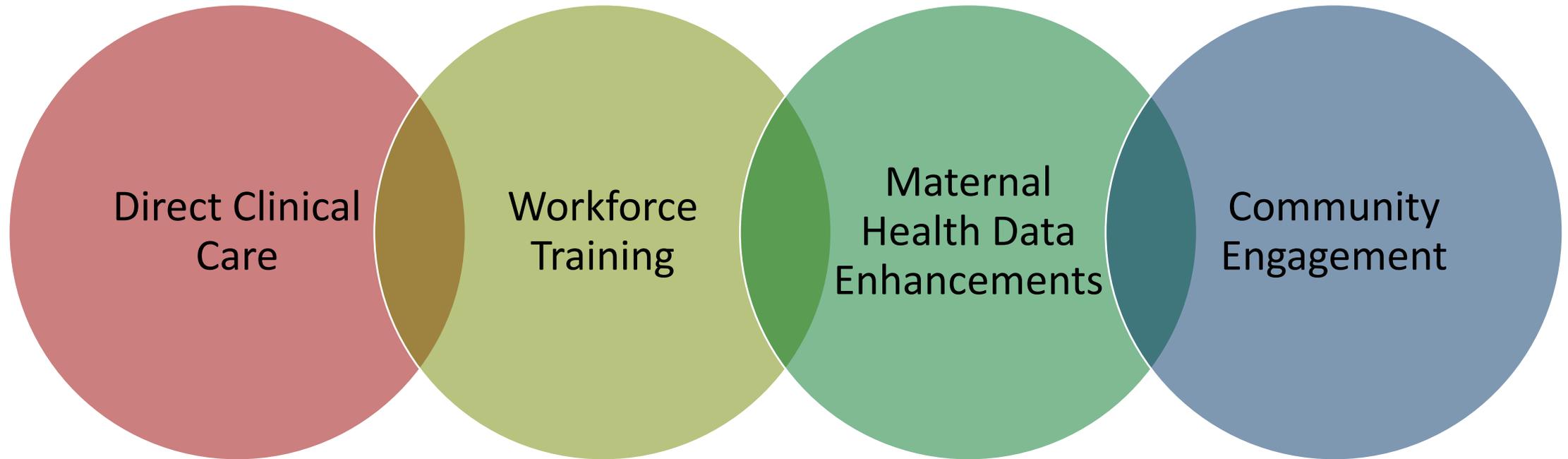
**INNOVATION**

# Program Components

- Catalyzing multidisciplinary collaboration through state-focused ***Maternal Health Task Force***;
- Improving state-level ***maternal health data and surveillance***; and,
- Promoting and executing ***innovation in maternal health service delivery*** to advance evidence-informed strategies that achieve a measurable impact



# Maternal Health Innovations





# Evolution of SMHI Program

## FY2019: Cohort 1

- First SMHI cohort
- 9 award recipients
- All re-competed in either 2023 or 2024

## FY2022: Cohort 2

- Coordination and alignment with Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM)

## FY2023: Cohort 3

- Largest cohort: 20 recipients

## FY2024: Cohort 4

- Performance Measurement, Program Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement
- Public-facing Maternal Health Annual Report

# Common Strengths Among Recipients

- 1 Strong engagement with Task Forces and cross-sector representation across States
- 2 Breaking down silos between maternal health programs
  - Collaboration with MMRC, Title V, Medicaid programs, community-based initiatives, etc.
- 3 Strong community engagement, including those with lived experience
- 4 Strong relationship with state government
  - \*Some states now have a legislative mandate for their Task Forces and some innovation activities
- 5 Innovative ideas!

# Common Challenges Among Recipients

- 1 Hospital closures (especially in rural areas)
- 2 Maternal health data access and quality
  - Staffing capacity to collect raw data, clean, analyze, and evaluate
  - Data systems not linked together (i.e., EHR, state data systems, etc.)
- 3 Loss of clinical staff (e.g., retirement, career change)
- 4 COVID response
- 5 Changing state & hospital policies

# Innovations Snapshot

Innovation	# of States Implementing
Prenatal Care	16
Postpartum Care	18
Doula Training	10
Obstetrics Simulation Training	13
Practitioner Training	16
Emergency Services Providers Training	10
Mental Health and SUD Screening	17
Medicaid Redetermination Efforts	14
Mothers' Training/Education/Storytelling Campaign	14



# Maternal Health Training and Resource Center



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- Awarded to The National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) in 2024
- Program Goals:
  - Provide tailored technical assistance, capacity-building assistance, and evaluation support services to MCHB's maternal health programs (primarily SMHI recipients)
  - Establish a national resource center that provides evidence-based strategies and guidance to improve maternal health
    - ✓ [Maternalhealthaction.org](https://maternalhealthaction.org)



## Maternal Health Action and Resource Center

A central hub for training, support, and skill-building for organizations and individuals working to improve maternal health and ensure safe pregnancies across the United States

About MHARC





# Q&A

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