

Dear Health Care Provider:

**This letter is to announce a funding opportunity for some providers of obstetric and midwifery care. Please distribute this letter with its attached rule and application form to all eligible providers in your community who practice as a solo provider.**

Professional Liability & Malpractice insurance for providers of childbirth health care is costly. To assist providers of birthing services with their malpractice insurance premiums, the New Mexico legislature initiated a Birthing Workforce Retention Fund in 2008. The Department of Health (NMDOH), as the administrative agency for this Fund, is extending an invitation to birthing providers to apply for an award in this State Fiscal Year 2020.

For this Fiscal Year, which ends June 30, 2020, the Fund has \$60,000 available. Awards will be between \$5,000 and \$10,000. To be eligible for award of money from the fund, the applicant must:

- be a certified nurse-midwife or medical doctor licensed in New Mexico providing comprehensive prenatal and birthing services,
- show that NM Medicaid or indigent patients constitute at least one-half of his or her obstetric practice,
- have a current malpractice liability insurance policy covering birthing services,
- show intent to continue his/her obstetrics practice in New Mexico during the period covered by the award, and
- sign the attestation (included on application) stating that the award will not be used to provide premium assistance for tail coverage purchased upon applicant's termination from his/her work practice.

Application requirements can be found in the attached [Birthing Workforce Retention Fund Rule, 7.30.9 NMAC](#), and on page 2 of the attached application form. The deadline for applications for awards in New Mexico State Fiscal Year 2020 is January 31, 2020. Applications must be delivered electronically or postmarked and mailed to the Maternal Health Program office (see application for address) by close of business that day.

Application forms can also be downloaded from the Department of Health, Maternal Health Program webpage under the Birthing Workforce Section: [www.nmmidwife.org](http://www.nmmidwife.org)

Please address any questions to Jessi Sanchez, MCH Business Operations Manager at (505) 476-8907 or [jessi.sanchez@state.nm.us](mailto:jessi.sanchez@state.nm.us).

Sincerely,

Catherine (Katie) Avery and Jessi Sanchez  
Maternal Health Program/ NMDOH Family Health Bureau