



Request for Proposals

Factors Impacting Patient Choice of Obstetrician Provider – Qualitative research projects.

RFA Release Date:	June 15, 2023
Application Due Date:	August 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Earliest Anticipated Project Start Date:	September 1, 2023
Expected Project Period:	September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Purpose

The SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare (CRPH) supports and develops sustainable rural and primary healthcare delivery and education in South Carolina through clinical practice, training, and research. We strive for a future where all South Carolinians have access to high-value health care. In an effort to better serve the needs of rural South Carolinians of reproductive age, the CRPH creates programs and deliverables to increase access to healthcare, including obstetric and gynecological providers. Through this work, a model has been developed that examines the factors related to a patient's choice of obstetrical (OB) provider, with the goal that it can be utilized to inform workforce placement and recruitment.

This model is built on factors identified through a systematic review of data and evidence. However, little information is available on patients' first-person perspectives and preferences related to their choice of provider. To better inform our model and fill gaps in knowledge, **the CRPH is issuing a request for proposals to elucidate the factors that impact a pregnant patient's choice of obstetrician provider.** By better understanding the process by which patients select their OB providers, we can improve realized access to prenatal care, thus improving the health outcomes of both mother and child.

Specifically, this project must include a qualitative assessment that will inform future quantitative research. This can be achieved through surveys of a representative sample of the population, key informant interviews, focus groups, or other qualitative methods. Quantitative aims may also be included so long as they are in addition to the project's qualitative work. Proposals should focus on rural South Carolina populations but may include urban perspectives if warranted by the project's goals and aims.

Applications must be submitted through the [CRPH submission management system \(Submittable\)](#)

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the proposals should be to identify factors that impact rural South Carolina pregnant patients' choice of OB provider. Additional goals may include, but are not limited to:

- Differences between rural and urban patients
- Impact of insurance type (Medicaid, private insurance, uninsured)
- Geographic / small area effects

Award Information

This one-time funding announcement will fund at least one (1) research award in amounts up to \$100,000 to be expended by June 31, 2024. Indirect costs are not allowable under this funding award.

Eligibility Criteria

- Any institution of higher education in South Carolina
- South Carolina Rural Health Networks
- SC Access Health programs
- Public or not-for-profit (501(c)3) organizations with an emphasis on health, rural health, or community services
- State government agencies
- Healthcare organizations
- Rural Health Clinics

All human-subjects research must be overseen by an institutional review board (IRB) or ethics committee to ensure the research abides by the Code of Federal Regulations. As such, funded applicants will be expected to obtain regulatory/IRB approval prior to initiation of any research procedures. If your organization does not have an IRB, you should plan to partner with another institution that has an IRB and is willing to serve as the IRB of record for the study.

If you are uncertain if you are eligible, please contact us at SCRuralHealthcare@uscm.edu so we can assist you in determining your eligibility.

Expected Deliverables

Awardees will be required to submit at least the following at the end of the award:

- Regulatory approval letter from the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Summary report of findings including methodology and results

Additional deliverables may be requested at the time of award based on the proposal and will be discussed with the research team prior to contracting. Invoices and progress reports will be required on a quarterly or biannual basis to ensure appropriate progress on the project and expending of funds.

What We Fund:

We aim to fund projects that will increase knowledge around the factors influencing patients' choice of OB provider. We fund direct costs only to include:

- Staff salary and fringe
- Supplies and a limited amount of equipment vital to the project (equipment must be specifically requested and justified)
- Participant incentives
- Graduate student tuition
- Project-related travel
- Advertising and outreach related to grant-supported services

We Do Not Fund:

- Capital funds or funds for facilities
- Salaries for personnel not directly involved with the project
- Indirect/overhead costs
- Medical care costs or other personal needs/costs
- Formation of committee or task forces
- Clinical trials
- Legal fees
- Consultant fees

CRPH Provided Resources

The CRPH may provide assistance in identifying additional rural partners if needed. These partners may be leveraged for recruiting study populations, providing spaces for interviews/focus groups, refining proposal methodologies, and more. Requests for additional rural partners should be initiated prior to proposal submission to ensure appropriate buy-in. Please contact the CRPH at SCRuralHealthcare@uscmed.sc.edu with your request.

Proposal Format and Requirements

Proposals must be submitted through the CRPH submission management system (Submittable) by the advertised due date. For funding consideration, all proposals must submit the following:

- Descriptive title of the project
- Overview of the proposed project (300 words maximum)
- Specific aims – 1-page maximum
- Research strategy – 3-page maximum
 - To include: background/significance, approach, hypothesis, planned analysis, project timeline, and dissemination plan.
- Bibliography/references cited – not included in page limits
- Detailed project budget and budget justification (templates provided)
- Key Personnel (template provided)
 - To include: biosketches or resumes summarizing the qualifications and experience of the individuals who will be conducting the study.

All components of the application must be written in a 10-point (or greater) font that is easy to read, such as Arial or Times New Roman, and use at least 0.5" margins on all sides.

Each section of the proposal should be kept separate and attached to the appropriate area of the online Submittable application. File type requirements depend on the section and will be indicated on the online application. For example, the project narrative may be uploaded as a Microsoft Word or PDF document, while the budget should be uploaded as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Applications that are late, incomplete, or not responsive to the RFP will be disqualified and will not be reviewed.

Please send all inquiries to SCRuralHealthcare@uscmed.sc.edu

Important dates

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Criteria and Selection

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Alignment: Is the project responsive to this RFP? Will it provide the funder with the information needed?
- Impact: Does the research have the potential to make a significant contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field?
- Approach and Feasibility: Does the proposal provide a clear statement of overall project objectives? Are the methods likely to produce reliable and valid results? Is the project timeline reasonable in relation to the proposed research and award timeframe?
- Investigators- Does the investigative team have the requisite background, training, relationship, and access to carry out the goals of the project? Do they have a track record of success in similar research?
- Budget- Does the proposal provide a sound justification with clear and specific budget information?

About the Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare:

The Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare (CRPH) supports and develops sustainable rural and primary healthcare delivery and education in South Carolina through clinical practice, training, and research. We strive for a future where all South Carolinians have access to high-value health care.