

Request for Information (RFI)
Mobile Maternity Unit, RFI # MMC2025

Overview: The South Carolina Department of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for the issuance of this Request for Information (RFI). The objective of this RFI is to solicit information from vendors who can facilitate the launch and continued operations of a mobile maternity clinic in a pilot underserved area (up to four contiguous counties) of SC.

This RFI is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). DPH is not seeking to contract with vendors for these services or products. This RFI is being used for market research and to gather information for the possible development of a future RFP.

Purpose: DPH has the goal to protect, promote, and improve the health and well-being of everyone in South Carolina. It is a desire of the agency to provide a mobile maternity care clinic that will directly serve women in their communities, minimizing barriers to accessing care. The mobile clinic will provide DPH the opportunity to facilitate health care access before, during, and after pregnancy. The mobile clinic operations will also promote local wellness and educational resources that address critical social determinants of health for birthing-people such as transportation, food insecurity, and poverty.

Vision: DPH aims to make available a mobile maternity care clinic in rural and/or underserved counties. The objective of the mobile maternity care clinic is to provide pre-conception, pregnancy, postpartum, and newborn interventions; primary healthcare interventions; maternal mental health/substance use disorder screening and referrals; and referrals for high-risk patients or those with fetal abnormalities. The clinic will feature a high-range ultrasound model and a fetal heart monitor.

DPH plans to provide nonrecurring funds for the purchase of a 38-foot mobile health vehicle, a high-range ultrasound model, and a fetal heart monitor to the contracted partner. DPH will provide recurring funds for operating expenses, such as gas and servicing for the unit, internet service, medical supplies, clinical staff, administrative assistance, and a driver.

DPH intends to contract with a vendor(s) responsible for building the mobile medical unit and managing/operating the unit. The vendor(s) will provide all clinical services, manage the day-to-day operations, establish electronic health record access with surrounding hospitals, schedule patient visits, and employ and maintain appropriate clinical and non-clinical staff (including a driver). The vendor(s) will also be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the mobile health vehicle.

Information being requested: Responses to the RFI should address the following in a written response not longer than twenty (20) pages in length. If you do **NOT** operate a mobile maternity clinic answer the questions in section two:

- I. If you have an existing mobile maternity clinic:
 - Provide an overview of your organization, including its history with mobile maternity services, and a description of your mobile unit(s) (i.e. type of vehicle, size of vehicle, layout of vehicle, power-source(s) used, internet-source used, medical equipment used, services offered, demographics of patients, and areas served).

- Describe your experience in building and/or acquiring the mobile maternity unit, including the planning and design process to meet maternity care needs, timeline, vendor selection criteria (e.g., through an RFP), and any challenges with craftsmanship, delivery delays, or operational issues like power source and internet connectivity?
- Who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the mobile maternity unit, and how do you manage maintenance schedules, repairs, and compliance with regulations? What procedures are in place for handling emergencies, inclement weather, and managing parts availability?
- What security measures and policies are in place to protect patient data and equipment in the mobile maternity unit, and how do you secure the unit when parked at different locations (e.g., alarms, tracking devices)?
- Who is responsible for staffing and overseeing the operations of your mobile maternity unit, including clinical roles (e.g., obstetricians, midwives, nurses) and non-clinical roles (e.g., drivers, administrative staff)? What are their specific responsibilities regarding logistics, scheduling, patient care, and vehicle management?
- How do you manage service delivery, patient records (including access to electronic health records of surrounding hospitals), care coordination, and referrals in a mobile setting? What challenges do you face with accessing medical records, coordinating with other healthcare providers, and addressing issues such as patient privacy, space constraints, and equipment needs?
- How do you determine the locations for your mobile maternity unit, and what factors guide this decision (e.g., community need, accessibility, partnerships)? What formal agreements (e.g., MOUs) and insurance coverage (e.g., vehicle, malpractice, liability) are necessary to support the unit's operations?
- How do you promote and attract patients to your mobile maternity unit, including the methods used for booking appointments, advertising, community engagement, and the strategies that have been most effective in building support and trust?
- How is the budget for your mobile maternity unit structured in terms of recurring and nonrecurring expenses? What are the primary categories for each, and how are these funds allocated to ensure the unit's effective operation and sustainability?
- How do you evaluate the effectiveness of your mobile maternity unit, including the key performance indicators, data collection methods, and any impact reports or success stories that demonstrate the unit's impact on maternal health outcomes and the community?

II. If you do **not** have an existing mobile maternity unit:

- Provide an overview of your organization, including its history with providing maternity services and/or offering mobile health services. Identify services offered, demographics of patients, and areas served.
- If you have a mobile health unit that is not specifically dedicated to maternal services provide a description of your unit(s) (i.e. type of vehicle, size of vehicle, layout of vehicle, power-source(s) used, internet-source used, medical equipment used, services offered, demographics of patients, and areas served).

- If you own a mobile health vehicle, who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the mobile unit, and how do you manage maintenance schedules, repairs, and compliance with regulations? What procedures are in place for handling emergencies, inclement weather, and managing parts availability?
- How do you promote and attract patients to your services, including the methods used for booking appointments, advertising, community engagement, and the strategies that have been most effective in building support and trust?
- What security measures and policies are in place to protect patient data?
- How do you evaluate the effectiveness of your services, including the key performance indicators, data collection methods, and any impact reports or success stories that demonstrate the impact on health outcomes in the community?
- How would you incorporate a mobile maternity clinic into your current services? Include the resources your organization has for building or acquiring a mobile health vehicle, staffing, operations, logistics, electronic health record capabilities to connect with surrounding hospitals, and patient care in a mobile setting. Additionally, identify any additional resources needed, including funding needs.

Confidential Information: Be advised that any information submitted in response to this RFI is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and should not be expected to be kept confidential.

Instructions for Responding to the RFI: Interested vendors should submit their written responses to be received no later than 2:00 PM ET on Friday, March 7, 2025.

The vendor may be contacted for a virtual 45-minute clarifying meeting to answer additional questions.

Printed Copies:

Please mail three (3) copies of the written response to:

RFI # MMC2025
Attn: Tripp Clark, Procurement Director
SCDPH
301 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Electronic Copies:

Electronic copies are acceptable and should be in MS Word or Adobe PDF format and can be emailed to clarkhc@dph.sc.gov. **IMPORTANT:** Emailed copies must be designated with “RFI # MMC2025” as the subject line of the email.