

# 2025 Zero Maternal Health Award

The Drive to Zero Maternal Health Award, part of SCHA's Zero Harm Priority Awards, given in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), and USC Institute for Families in Society (IFS), recognizes facilities who are working to reduce maternal deaths through the efforts of the Statewide AIM Collaborative ([Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health](#)). The overall goal of this award is to fully recognize SC birthing facilities who are seeing improvements in their severe maternal morbidity outcomes and following best practices as defined by the AIM collaborative.

All SC birthing facilities are eligible to receive this award. Hospitals do not need to complete an application for this award. All SC birthing facilities will be automatically reviewed and validated by our third-party partners (SCDHHS and IFS) to receive this award. Hospitals must meet the requirements of both Part 1 and 2 to qualify. In other words, hospitals must be assessed to be fully engaged in AIM & have data outcome criteria met to receive the award.

## PART 1: Hospital is identified as fully engaged in AIM (hospital fulfilled 3+ requirements)

In May 2019, SC officially became an Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) state. Over the years, hospitals have had various avenues in which they can inform and involve themselves in the AIM program and its patient safety bundles. Approved hospital users can access the SCBOI dashboard to track bundle outcome measures. Staff and AIM Champions can also attend the Quality and Patient Safety (QPS) meetings to learn more about best practices for bundle implementation. In addition, they can attend technical assistance meetings led by both SCDHHS and IFS staff, and they can promptly complete AIM surveys to track bundle process and structure measure progress.

The following definitions were used to determine when a hospital was identified as fully engaged in AIM:

1. SCBOI Dashboard Portal - Having a portal user (either general or AIM Champion) AND having logged in within the last 6 months since January 2025.
2. QPS - Two quarters worth of Quality and Patient Safety meetings marked as "Yes". (Q2, 2024, Q3, 2024, Q4 2024)
3. Technical Assistance - Either completed an interview with Lynn Martin OR attended one of the AIM Champion open office hours marked as "Yes" in 2024.
4. Survey - AIM Survey (Sept 2024) completion marked as "Yes"

## PART 2: Hospital meets all the criteria on one of three maternal outcomes

### Maternal outcomes:

1. Severe Maternal morbidity (SMM)
2. SMM/Severe Hypertension
3. Potentially Avoidable Cesarean Outcome data

### Criteria to meet in one of the above outcomes:

1. Quartile Ranking: Hospital State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 outcome rates for both all payer and Medicaid are in the lowest (best) quartile.
2. Three-Year Trend: Both three-year outcome trends (SFY 2022-2024; all payer and Medicaid) must have significantly decreased or been maintained.
3. O/E Ratio: The observed-to-expected outcome ratio for both all payer and Medicaid is below 1 (i.e., low risk of the poor outcome) AND/OR the hospital SFY 2024 outcome rates for both all payer and Medicaid were in the lowest/first quartile and the rate for at least one was 25% below the statewide rate.