**Template with questions and answers for applicants to use when requesting letters of support from their hospital:**

***What is the Reducing Primary Cesareans Project?***

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Healthy Birth InitiativeTM (HBI) is a long-term Initiative led by ACNM with representatives from leading maternity care organizations. HBI focuses on preserving normalcy by promoting evidence-based practices that promote healthy physiologic birth. The Healthy Birth InitiativeTM works to encourage a consistent approach to birth practices and is focused on reducing practices that are not evidence based.

The Reducing Primary Cesareans 2017 (RPC) project is an interdisciplinary quality improvement (QI) collaborative focused on reduction of primary cesarean births. ACNM’s approach is consistent with national efforts while focusing on those practices which support physiologic progress of labor and birth. There is excessive variation in the rates of first cesarean birth in low risk women throughout the US. This variation is evidence that while sometimes necessary, there is significant opportunity for improvement in the processes of care leading to this operative intervention.

*Why will this help to address cesarean rates?*

The most common reasons for cesarean section in low risk women are related to dysfunctional labor and “non-reassuring “ fetal heart rate tracings. They account for about 60% of cesareans in this population. ACNM has created 3 QI bundles that address these two drivers.

* Intermittent Auscultation
* Promoting Spontaneous Labor Progress
* Promoting Comfort in Labor

Participating hospitals will choose to implement one or more of these bundles based on their own data and assessment of which will most improve the culture of support for physiologic labor and birth.

***What’s in it for our institution?***

Through your participation in this project to implement one of the care bundles, our institution will be able to take steps to standardize practice according to evidence based care recommendations. The collaborative is led by a national multidisciplinary steering committee composed of experts in their respective fields. Our team and other members of the collaborative will receive support, training and inspiration from these experts.

If selected to participate, we will receive:

* **Monthly coaching calls:** The collaborative is using a Mentorship Model, which pairs ACNM mentors (physicians, CNMs and nurses) with your team to lead your hospital through the collaborative implementation activities.
* **Quarterly webinars:** Your team will also be able to participate in a series of webinars that provide concrete information to build skills in QI and related bundle content.
* **Tool for Data Driven Change:** Your team will receive training to collect and upload your data to our customized benchmarking site. Each month, as we upload data, we can track our progress against key metrics and benchmarks.
* **Ready Access to Resources:** BirthTools and the RPC website has sample policies and tools that can be used throughout the collaborative process.

***What do we need to do to apply?***

Your success in implementing change will be supported by two key factors:

1. Finding “champions” who will administratively support the activities of your team, or who will act as motivators when things bog down and
2. Having access to data that will drive and measure your success work.

You need to identify champions for #1, and to have them write letters of support addressing #1 (enthusiastic commitment to the project, making human and technical resources available to support your team during the project, and #2 (committing resources to assist in the data collection process).

***What is the timing, and what fees are involved?***

In 2017, there will be a fee for participants to defray ACNM’s costs of supporting this project. We expect this fee will be between $5,000 and $12,000 per hospital for the 18 month collaborative. We will be happy to work with you to help you seek funding to cover these fees, should that be necessary.

The deadline for submission of a letter of intent and initial application materials is September 6, 2016. Letters of support, which will complete the application, must be received by September 19, 2016. Applicants who are selected for participation will be notified by October 3, 2016.

SAVE the DATE: Members of the QI team from your institution are expected to attend an orientation/roll out meeting on Nov. 3, 2016 in Myrtle Beach South Carolina.