

GRANT APPLICATION 2009 THE HAZEL CORBIN/CHILDBIRTH CONNECTION GRANT FOR EVIDENCE-BASED MIDWIFERY CARE

Application deadline: October 1, 2009

Section A. BACKGROUND

Background: In recognition of the shared history and values of Childbirth Connection (formerly Maternity Center Association) and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the A.C.N.M. Foundation, and Childbirth Connection has established a grant to be given annually. The Hazel Corbin/Childbirth Connection Grant for Evidence-Based Midwifery Care honors the contributions of Hazel Corbin, a nursing leader who specialized in maternal and child health. Ms. Corbin served as General Director of the Maternity Center Association (MCA) for 42 years. She was appointed to the position in 1923 after serving on the staff since 1918, the year MCA was organized. Under her leadership, MCA fostered the establishment and expansion of nurse-midwifery education, fostered the establishment of the American College of Nurse-Midwifery (now ACNM) and housed its offices, and supported the growth of the profession in numerous ways. Ms. Corbin was one of the first individuals elected to honorary membership in the American College of Nurse-Midwifery, in 1957. She was also the A.C.N.M. Foundation's first President, in 1967.

Purpose: The purpose of the Hazel Corbin/Childbirth Connection Grant for Evidence-Based Midwifery Care is to further knowledge of the safety and/or effectiveness of midwifery practices for mothers and newborns and application of this knowledge.

Rationale/Criteria: Although results of outcome studies of midwifery care have been consistently favorable, achieving good outcomes is not necessarily synonymous with providing evidence-based care. As in all areas of health care, the safety and effectiveness of some midwifery practices have not been adequately evaluated. Improved understanding of effects of midwifery practices will contribute to the quality of midwifery care, will provide useful knowledge for other providers of maternity services, and will enhance the ability of midwives to demonstrate the value of their services to pregnant women, administrators, policy makers and others.

Applicants may meet the objective of this Grant through many different types of projects. Potential projects that meet these objectives include, but are not limited to, work toward:

- identifying research priorities for building the evidence base for midwifery care
- developing and/or evaluating a maternity care performance measure of appropriate care for healthy childbearing women and/or newborns, such as adaptation of the U.K. "Normal Birth" measure
- preparing or updating a systematic review about effects of a midwifery practice
- developing and offering a systematic review training course to midwifery researchers

- carrying out a pilot study that is expected to yield data to support application for a major research grant to evaluate effects of a midwifery practice, including awards available for comparative effectiveness research
- carrying out a descriptive study to assess the degree to which care provided by midwives is consistent with the best available research
- promoting among midwives care that is consistent with the best available research
- developing and making accessible resources to help midwifery clients make decisions that are informed by the best available research.

When feasible and appropriate, applicants are expected to carry out work that reflects highest international standards for evidence-based practice. For example, systematic reviews of best available primary studies yield more definitive information than conventional "narrative" reviews. The Sicily Statement on Evidence-Based Practice at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6920/5/1> is a thoughtful discussion about the role of evidence-based practice in the health professions. An instructive table comparing this paradigm with previous health care conventions is available at <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/320/7228/0/a/DC1> Applicants are urged to become familiar with a new report, *Evidence-Based Maternity Care: What It Is and What It Can Achieve* (see <http://www.childbirthconnection.org/ebmc/>) which presents a rationale and framework for applying the evidence-based paradigm to maternity care.

The mission of Childbirth Connection is to improve the quality of maternity care through research, education, advocacy and policy (For more information about Childbirth Connection, see <http://www.childbirthconnection.org>). The proposed project should be compatible with ACNM's current strategic priorities as well as the mission of A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc, which is *to promote excellence in health care for women, infants and families worldwide through the support of midwifery*. Work carried out under this Grant must be applicable to midwifery in the United States, but need not be limited to this context.

Eligibility:

Applicants from a wide range of fields and settings are eligible to apply. Applicants need not be midwives. Professionals who are involved with furthering understanding of the safety and/or effectiveness of midwifery practices for mothers and newborns are invited to submit applications. Professionals from midwifery or any other field that may contribute to this objective (for example, nursing, public health, social science) are welcome to apply. Applicants may be affiliated with an academic institution, an advocacy group, a clinical entity, a professional organization (including ACNM), a public agency, a research or consulting organization, or other group that may be supportive of evidence-based midwifery care. Applicants may be based in the United States or in another country. Grantees will be eligible to reapply in subsequent years for support for work that is either related or unrelated to work already carried out through this Grant.

Review criteria:

Applicants are encouraged to keep the review process in mind as they complete their applications. Staff will assess the extent to which applicants have adhered to application guidelines and procedures. A

team of reviewers will use the following questions to guide their assessment of the project's relevance, excellence and impact.

Relevance

- Will the proposed project contribute to knowledge or application of knowledge of safe and effective midwifery care for childbearing women and/or newborns?
- Is the proposed project consistent with the strategic priorities of ACNM and the mission statements of the A.C.N.M. Foundation and Childbirth Connection?

Quality

- Does the proposed project reflect international standards for evidence-based health care?
- Is the project design sound, including the work plan and qualifications of the personnel who will carry it out (project director and others)?
- Can the proposed project be accomplished with resources that are available and within the specified time frame?
- If the proposed work is a component of a larger project, has the applicant provided reasonable assurances that the status of the larger project will not pose barriers to accomplishing the proposed work?

Impact

- Does the proposed project address a gap in knowledge or practice with potentially great health implications and/or with respect to a potentially large population?
- If the impact is dependent upon subsequent steps (e.g., acceptance of manuscripts for publication or securing of a research grant), is there a reasonable chance that these steps will occur given the qualifications and experience of the applicant and the state of the external environment?
- If these steps do not occur, is there potential for favorable impact with respect to the primary objective and to ancillary effects such as benefits for students, colleagues or clients?
- If the proposed work is a component of a larger project, has the applicant demonstrated that the proposed work will add value to the larger project?

Conditions:

Grantees are expected to share work done under the auspices of the Hazel Corbin/Childbirth Connection Award for Evidence-Based Midwifery Care with others. This may involve publishing results in a peer-reviewed journal or professional newsletter, presenting results at professional meetings, posting relevant information online as appropriate and/or disseminating educational materials to childbearing women. The letter of agreement between the Grantee and the A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc. will provide specific guidance to ensure acknowledgment of the role of the Grant and the Foundation. All applicants must agree to the following as a condition of the award:

- submit periodic progress reports on a regular basis as outlined in an award letter;
- complete a brief data collection form for the A.C.N.M. Foundation within one year, if a grant is received; and,

- acknowledge Childbirth Connection and the A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc. in any professional activities that directly result from the grant, including any publications/presentations.

Funds Available: One grant of up to \$4,500.00 will be awarded on November 16, 2009 for a project that begins no later than December 1, 2009.

Section B. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- General:** Carefully read the following instructions and provide all information requested. An original plus five (5) copies of the complete application package, page numbered and stapled using the supplied Face Sheet as a cover sheet, must be submitted by the deadline. In addition to these five copies, an electronic copy must also be submitted on a CD. Applications not meeting the deadline for submission or these style requirements will not be accepted. Applicants are responsible for the quality of the copies.
- Style/Format:** Only typed applications will be processed. Typefaces must be Arial font, at least 11 point size, and pages must be double-spaced with one inch margins. Number pages sequentially beginning with the application Face Sheet and record the page number in the Table of Contents.
- Deadline:** Completed applications, including attachments, must be received by October 1, 2009.
- Submit to:** Mail the complete application, five (5) copies and one (1) electronic copy as one packet to:
- Hazel Corbin/Childbirth Connection Grant
A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc.
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550
Silver Spring, MD 20910
- Budget Guidelines:** Applicants must submit a budget with budget narrative identifying how the funds will be used, and must demonstrate that the proposed work can be carried out with the available funds. If the proposed work is a component of a larger project with separate funding, applicants should demonstrate that the larger project and its funding status do not pose barriers to carrying out the proposed work and that the proposed work adds value to the larger project. Funds may be applied toward direct costs such as expenses for research assistant services and associated fringe, data analysis services, buyout of a portion of an academic salary, costs associated with participating in a systematic review training course, expenses associated with a pilot research study, or production costs of educational or training material. Resources for indirect administrative costs are not available; questions about this or other budget criteria may be directed to the A.C.N.M. Foundation office.
- Budget Format:** Grant funds must not be intentionally applied for or used by any Project Director when there are funds currently available for the proposed project (or which appear to be reasonably assured) from other sources. The budget has three major components, two forms and one narrative:
- Budget Form A (attached below):** Using the form provided, please indicate the total direct costs requested from the A.C.N.M. Foundation for the specified period. Please list name and title of all funded personnel associated with this project including their roles and their annual salary, % effort they are committing to this project and total salary costs. In addition, specify all consultant, equipment, supplies and other expenses related to the entire project. Total all separate costs and indicate this amount in the last box in the "Totals" column. This number should also appear in "Column A" on Form B. Please note: salaries requested should be for full or part-time personnel; requests for items of equipment will be evaluated

on merit in relation to the project. No A.C.N.M. Foundation funds may be used for indirect costs, yet indirect funds from other sources should be included in the total budget. Enter the total indirect cost figures on the appropriate lines on Form B.

Budget Form B (attached below). Please present the total project costs (direct and indirect) for the same project period specified for the proposed project. Identify under the column marked “A.C.N.M. Foundation” the funds requested through this proposal. Under the column marked “Other sources”, please note other sources (internal and external) of funding available for the completion of this project. These figures should be reasonable and in relation to the funds requested. Total all columns and rows, and in the section below the table, list sources of “Other” support.

Budget Justification. Each amount requested in Budget Form B, Column A should be justified with a brief but thorough explanation of how the funds will be used. The budget justification is to be part of the Narrative Project Description described below.

Application Contents: ***Complete applications must include the following components in the order specified:***

Application Face Sheet (attached below). The Face Sheet must be completed and signed by the Project Director. It must include a *Project Abstract* (200 word maximum) providing a brief yet comprehensive description of the proposed project.

Table of Contents.

Curriculum Vitae. Project director C.V. must be included with emphasis on items relevant to proposed project; please limit to five pages.

Budget (Forms A and B). See instructions above and forms below.

Progress Report (if applicable). If an applicant received Corbin funding in the past and is now seeking funding for a new project, they must complete and submit a Progress Report of no more than five (5) pages, to the best of their ability. If an applicant is seeking additional funding for the same project funded in the past by the Corbin Grant, they must try to work their Progress Report into the Narrative Project Description of the new application (see below); if this option is chosen, the applicant may add up to three (3) pages to the narrative project description for the purpose of reporting on project progress.

Narrative Project Description. The narrative project description **must be limited to 15 double-spaced pages**, and include the following:

- Problem/Significance
- Goals /Objectives
- Project Description
- Budget Justification
- Staffing/Collaborative Plan
- Planned Timeline For Implementation
- Evaluation Plan
- Dissemination Plan

Bibliography. Up to 50 references may be included in the bibliography, but only if they are needed to support the project proposal. Applicants are encouraged to use a standard format throughout this section.

Letter(s) of Support/Recommendation. Obtain and include one or more letters of support or recommendation that address the applicant's ability to carry out the proposed work, including applicant's relevant qualifications and experience, any available institutional support, and possible relationship of the proposed project to other related work.

Relevant Supportive Material. Additional materials that address the project's relevance, quality, and impact, or the project director's ability to carry out the work described may be included in the application packet. The applicant must provide one original and five (5) copies of these materials; applicants are encouraged to limit the volume to 25 pages.

BUDGET FORM A
TOTAL DIRECT PROJECT COSTS REQUESTED FROM
THE A.C.N.M. FOUNDATION

1. PERSONNEL (NAME, TITLE)	ROLE	% EFFORT on Project	ANNUAL/ PROJECT SALARY	FRINGE RATE/ TOTAL	TOTALS
<i>PERSONNEL SUBTOTALS*</i>				\$	\$
2. CONSULTANT COSTS					
<i>CONSULTANT SUBTOTAL*</i>					\$
3. EQUIPMENT and SUPPLIES					
<i>EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES SUBTOTAL*</i>					\$
4. OTHER EXPENSES (List by Category)					
<i>OTHER EXPENSES SUBTOTAL*</i>					\$
5. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS FOR PROJECT PERIOD					\$

* The respective subtotals should correspond to the same categories in column A, Form B.

BUDGET FORM B
TOTAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT PERIOD

	Column A	Column B	Column C
	A.C.N.M. Foundation	Other Sources (including in-kind)	Total All Sources (including in-kind)
1. PERSONNEL	*		
2. CONSULTANT COSTS	*		
3. EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES	*		
4. OTHER EXPENSES	*		
5. TOTAL DIRECT COST	*		
6. TOTAL INDIRECT COST	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> NONE FROM A.C.N.M. FOUNDATION </div>		
TOTAL COSTS FOR PROJECT PERIOD	**		**

* These amounts also appear on Form A. ** These amounts also appear on the Face Sheet.

List below the other agencies, institutions, or organizations responsible for funding each expense category and amounts associated with each (e.g. XYZ University: Personnel; \$12,000 for director). Use additional page if necessary.

NOTE: A full budget justification must be included in grant narrative.