



**For Immediate Release**

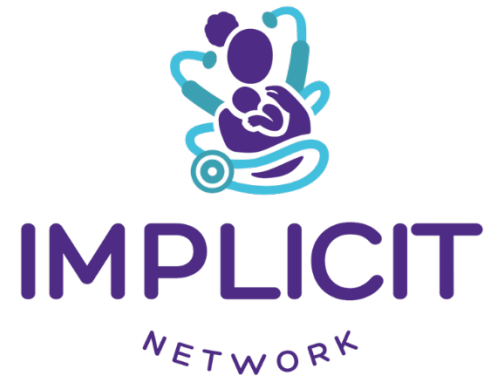
August 4, 2025

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**FMEC IMPLICIT Project Updates Name, Receives Grant to Expand in Philadelphia**

DAYTON, OHIO – For more than 20 years, family physicians and other healthcare providers have come together under the [IMPLICIT Network](#) to improve birth outcomes and promote the health of women, birthing people, infants and families. As of June 2025, the IMPLICIT project has a new logo (see right) and has updated its acronym, which now stands for **Innovations for Maternal and Perinatal Care Improvement**.



Maternal mortality rates in the US have risen significantly, disproportionately affecting Black women and birthing individuals from rural and poor communities. The IMPLICIT Network addresses these disparities through innovation and quality improvement (QI) initiatives. By engaging clinicians at over 40 family medicine and pediatric sites, the network has developed and implemented two innovative models of care: Interconception Care (ICC) and 4th Trimester Care (4TM). These programs have screened over 60,000 mothers/birthing people for risk factors, providing an opportunity for intervention at the point of care. The data collected from 225,000 visits highlights significant improvements in early intervention and preventive care.

The project is also launching an exciting new component to enroll all family medicine training programs in Philadelphia as IMPLICIT sites. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and its Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health (MCFH) launched a mini-grant initiative to support organizations working to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and to reduce inequities in maternal and infant mortality in Philadelphia. IMPLICIT and the FMEC successfully applied for a \$40,526 grant from PDOH. This IMPLICIT expansion to include more clinics in Philadelphia will align with the work of [Birth Justice Philly](#) and will address recommendations from the [Philadelphia Maternal Mortality Review Committee \(MMRC\)](#) to improve access to preventive and preconception care, direct more attention to the postpartum period, and strengthen coordination between systems.

Grant funds will allow the University of Pennsylvania Health System, which leads IMPLICIT, to recruit 6 additional family medicine residencies to create a Philadelphia consortium of IMPLICIT Network sites. New sites will receive staff implementation support, Network data management and document storage, invitations to webinars and bi-annual Network meetings, continuous quality improvement (CQI) and best practices strategies, and opportunities for dissemination of their work to other members of the collaborative and Philadelphia sites as well as local and regional conference presentations.

At Penn Family Care alone, the IMPLICIT Interconception Care intervention reached 440 dyads (women/birthing people and their infants) in 2024. Screening for ICC is done at 76% of WCVs at Penn Family Care. Adding the potential 6 new sites to the IMPLICIT Network will enhance the capacity to serve over 2,200 new dyads and families each year, translating to thousands of new MCH focused screenings in Philadelphia. To help sites learn



from and incorporate views of birthing people in their communities, patient surveys and interviews will be implemented at each site. The project will also provide each site with 100 bottles of multivitamins with folic acid to distribute to families.

By harnessing the power of primary and prenatal care providers, the project can address the medical, social, and logistical concerns of postpartum people before they become a detriment to the wellbeing of the mother/birthing person, infant, or their family. The FMEC and the IMPLICIT project thank the PDOH for their support and investment of the health and well-being of birthing people and families in Philadelphia.

### **About the IMPLICIT Network**

The [IMPLICIT Network](#) is a primary care maternal child health (MCH) learning collaborative within the [Family Medicine Education Consortium](#) (FMEC) focused on improving birth outcomes and promoting the health of women, birthing people, infants, and families. The IMPLICIT Network achieves this through innovative models of care, quality improvement, and the professional development of current and future physicians. Recognizing that prenatal care alone is not enough to improve maternal morbidity and mortality, the IMPLICIT Network has developed, implemented, and evaluated two care models - [Interconception Care \(ICC\)](#) and [4<sup>th</sup> Trimester Care \(4TM\)](#) - which provide enhanced opportunities to address maternal health risks before, during, and after pregnancy.

### **About the Family Medicine Education Consortium**

The FMEC is a catalyst, convener, and incubator that connects family physicians and other stakeholders to improve the health communities by strengthening family medicine, primary care and medical education. The FMEC serves 14 states and the District of Columbia in the northeast region of the U.S., working with 60 medical school departments of family medicine, over 220 family medicine residency programs, and thousands of family physicians and other health care providers in community settings. Through an Annual Meeting for over 1,000 health professionals, annual awards, learning communities, and quality improvement projects, the FMEC inspires medical students to seek careers in family medicine, strengthens academic family medicine through faculty development and leadership experiences, and stimulates innovative approaches to primary care service delivery.