



# The VNPC 2024 Year in Review

The Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative (VNPC) was recognized in 2017 as the 42nd state perinatal quality collaborative (PQC) to improve maternal and infant health outcomes for all pregnant and parenting people, their families, and their infants. The VNPC’s mission aims to ensure that every pregnant and parenting person has the best possible perinatal care and that every infant across Virginia is cared for in a way that gives them the best possible start to their lives

## Strategic Priorities for 2023-2026

1

**Respectful Care:** Ensure all those who are pregnant or have been pregnant and their families receive quality care reflective of their needs and desires before, during, and after pregnancy

2

**Communities:** Strengthen relationships and build trust to engage diverse communities, that reflect the pregnant/parenting populations, in the work of the Collaborative

3

**Data:** Increase access, understanding, and utilization of perinatal and infant care data

4

**Communication:** Share a vision of success that mobilizes our community to action and change

Over the past eight years, the VNPC has worked towards developing a foundation for key health metrics, advocating for policy, and working towards a collaborative perinatal and infant care system across the state.

- ✓ Gathered service data on the majority of hospitals within Virginia to aid in classifying their level of care
- ✓ Launched funding to support community organizations that provide maternal care across the state
- ✓ Developed a task force to create a statewide strategic plan for maternal health
- ✓ Created an Emerging Leaders workgroup for future maternal and infant healthcare providers to foster a greater understanding of care needs
- ✓ Through federal grant funding in partnership with Urban Baby Beginnings expanded maternal health hubs, by creating infrastructure, workforce competencies, and data collection

## 2024 Projects

The VNPC has established many projects that work toward the goal of improving the health of those who are pregnant or have recently been pregnant and infants throughout the Commonwealth.



**Project LOCATE (Levels of Care Assessment Tool):** A web-based assessment tool used to gather data about birthing facilities’ levels of preparation and care provided.



**Turn the Page:** Focuses on collecting stories of when birthing people overcame challenges or received exceptional support during their journey with the maternal health system and then shares those stories on social media.



**Project SMILE:** A component of an overarching project called Project EMBRACE, is a data-driven quality improvement project that works with birthing facilities to implement programming for the perinatal mental health needs for their facilities and populations.



**Eliminating Bias in the Dyad Care (EBDC):** A quality improvement program that will focus on improving outcomes for pregnant and parenting families and infants impacted by substance use disorder. Current in the pilot planning phase for implementation in January 2025!



**Late Pre-Term Quality Improvement (QI) Project:** Seeks to identify practices across NICUs and Newborn nurseries in the Commonwealth to develop standards of care and best practices for infants.



**VNPC Emerging Leaders Workgroup:** Seeks to assist in establishing the next generation of perinatal and infant healthcare leaders through hands-on experience with the VNPC's many initiatives.



**VNPC Community Fund:** Provides funds to support local organizations engaging in improvements to maternal and infant health across the Commonwealth.



**Virginia Maternal Health Task Force Environmental Scan:** Provides an overview of maternal and infant health trends to support the Maternal Health Task Force's mission to create a strategic plan for maternal health across Virginia.



**PQC Structure & Funding Assessment:** Provides clarity surrounding PQCs across the United States offering a greater understanding of their funding, structures, and goals in an effort to strengthen PQC support across the country.

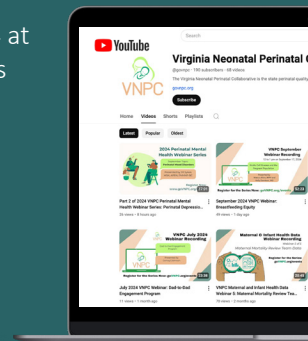
## Key Events

**Monthly Webinars:** The VNPC holds a webinar on the third Tuesday of every month to provide additional information and education opportunities for providers around the state. The VNPC hosted 25 webinars, including additional topic-specific series throughout the year:

- VNPC 2SLGBTQIA+ Competency Series
- VNPC Maternal and Infant Health Data Series
- Perinatal Mental Health Safety Series

**Fifth Annual Day of Learning:** The VNPC's Fifth Annual Day of Learning was held March 18th, 2024 at The Westin in Richmond, Virginia. The Conference's theme was "Connecting the Dots: Data to Action."

**Eighth Annual VNPC Summit:** The Eighth Annual VNPC Summit brought together over 130 experts, advocates, and community members from across Virginia to discuss key issues and data surrounding perinatal and infant health. This year's theme was "Connecting the Dots: Action to Outcome."



## Funding

The VNPC has been awarded several high-profile grants to help them further their mission. These include:



- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- The CDC Foundation Grant Award
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Health Innovation Grant
- HRSA Supplemental Funding Award.

## Looking Forward

In 2024, the VNPC broadened its reach and support for pregnant and parenting individuals, as well as infants, across the Commonwealth through enhanced infrastructure, new projects, events, and community partnerships. The VNPC has also examined policies and structures to identify areas of improvement and plans to further expand its efforts in 2025.

Learn more about the VNPC and their work at [www.govnpc.org](http://www.govnpc.org)

