

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL DRS35437-MTa-200

Short Title: We Need More Midwives Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hise and Chitlik (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR
3 CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AND
4 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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7 **PART I. MIDWIFERY EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM**

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** Program; Purpose. – There is established the Midwifery Education
9 Grant Program (Program) for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The purpose of the Program is to
10 increase the number of midwives and midwife training programs in the State to support increased
11 prenatal, natal, and postnatal services for women and families in North Carolina.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions
13 shall apply:

- 14 (1) Eligible constituent institution. – A constituent institution of The University
15 of North Carolina that meets both of the following criteria:
16 a. Has an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) degree program.
17 b. Does not have an eligible midwife training program.
18 (2) Eligible midwife training program. – A midwife training program that
19 provides a certified nurse-midwife (CNM) credential.
20 (3) HBCU. – A constituent institution of higher education that is a historically
21 black college or university or a historically minority-serving institution of
22 higher education.
23 (4) Partner hospital. – A hospital located in this State that has an established
24 program to allow certified nurse-midwives to deliver children in the hospital.
25 (5) Program. – The Midwifery Education Grant Program established in this
26 section.
27 (6) System Office. – The University of North Carolina System Office.

28 **SECTION 1.(c)** Eligibility. – Any eligible constituent institution of The University
29 of North Carolina may apply to The University of North Carolina System Office for a grant to
30 establish an eligible midwife program under the Program.

31 **SECTION 1.(d)** Applications; Criteria and Guidelines. – No later than September
32 30, 2026, the System Office shall develop and publish criteria and guidelines for the application
33 process for the Program, including any documentation required to be submitted by the eligible
34 constituent institutions. The System Office shall accept applications until December 31, 2026.
35 Applications shall include, at a minimum, the following information:



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- 1 (1) Evidence that the applicant has or will establish a relationship with a partner
- 2 hospital.
- 3 (2) A proposed budget for the eligible midwife training program.
- 4 (3) A plan to graduate at least 20 certified nurse-midwives by the fifth year of
- 5 operation of the eligible midwife training program.
- 6 (4) A time line to establish the eligible midwife training program, including the
- 7 academic year in which the program would begin enrolling students.

8 **SECTION 1.(e)** Award and Priority. – Grant awards shall not exceed four million
9 dollars (\$4,000,000) per eligible constituent institution, and the System Office shall award grants
10 to selected applicants by March 15, 2027. In awarding grants to eligible constituent institutions
11 under the Program, the System Office shall make every effort to ensure that grant recipients are
12 representative of the geographical diversity of the State and shall prioritize awards to eligible
13 constituent institutions that meet one or more of the following criteria, with more criteria
14 resulting in greater priority:

- 15 (1) Are HBCUs.
- 16 (2) Are located near a partner hospital.
- 17 (3) Have a plan to establish an eligible midwife training program as soon as
- 18 practicable and not later than the 2029-2030 academic year.

19 **SECTION 1.(f)** Use of Funds. – Grant funds awarded under the Program may be
20 used for any of the following purposes related to the establishment of an eligible midwife training
21 program:

- 22 (1) Faculty and staff.
- 23 (2) Additional nurse preceptors for the APRN degree program at the eligible
- 24 constituent institution.
- 25 (3) Other expenses necessary to establishing an eligible midwife training
- 26 program.

27 **SECTION 1.(g)** Report. – No later than October 15, 2027, and annually thereafter
28 until all eligible constituent institutions receiving funds have expended those funds, the System
29 Office shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal
30 Research Division on the following information related to the Program:

- 31 (1) Number and amount of grants awarded.
- 32 (2) Identities of eligible constituent institutions receiving grants.
- 33 (3) Identities of eligible constituent institutions that applied for grants but did not
- 34 receive one.
- 35 (4) Estimated time lines to establish eligible midwife training programs as a result
- 36 of grants received under the Program.
- 37 (5) Any other matter the System Office deems relevant.

38 **PART II. APPROPRIATION**

39 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors
40 of The University of North Carolina the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in
41 nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to be allocated to The University of North
42 Carolina System Office to provide grants to constituent institutions of The University of North
43 Carolina to establish eligible midwifery programs in accordance with Section 1 of this act. These
44 funds shall not revert at the end of the 2026-2027 fiscal year but shall remain available until
45 expended.
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47 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

48 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2026.
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