



For Immediate Release

CHEER Receives \$2 Million Supplement from CDC to Extend CHAMPS National for a Fourth Year

Boston, MA – September 2026 – The Center for Health Equity, Education, and Research (CHEER) at Boston Medical Center received a \$2,000,000 supplemental award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity to extend CHAMPS National for a fourth year. The supplemental funding will support the program from September 30, 2026, through September 29, 2027.

CHAMPS National (Communities and Hospitals Advancing Maternity Practices) is a hospital-based quality improvement collaborative working with 100 hospitals across the United States and territories to increase breastfeeding rates and improve maternity care practices.

Over its first three years, CHAMPS National has enrolled, trained, and supported hospitals in implementing and sustaining the WHO/UNICEF Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, using strategies grounded in quality improvement and safety. To date, nursing staff at participating hospitals have completed nearly 50,000 CHAMPS training sessions.

“Over the course of three years, our hospitals accomplished so much in terms of training their staff and implementing QI methods to increase practices like skin-to-skin and rooming-in. However, many teams had additional goals and were asking for more coaching and support,” said Laura Burnham, MPH, Associate Director of CHEER and CHAMPS. “We are grateful to have another year of funding to continue this work and the opportunity to further increase breastfeeding rates.”

The fourth year of CHAMPS National will allow CHEER and its partners to continue supporting participating hospitals, strengthen quality improvement efforts, share lessons learned, and build on progress made throughout the initiative.

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About CHEER

The Center for Health Equity, Education, and Research (CHEER) at Boston Medical Center and the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine is a world-class center for maternal-child health advocacy, training, and research. CHEER is dedicated to advancing maternal-child health through collaboration with community-based partners and providing technical assistance, training, evaluation, and inspiration. <https://cheerequity.org/>

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