Aspire Indiana Health’s project for the ISDH’s Safety Pin Grant cycle will aim to reduce the infant mortality rate by serving women in Madison County between the ages of 15-34 with a comprehensive set of services aimed to provide assessment and education, health maintenance and health promotion before and during pregnancy, early identification of pregnancy through free screenings, identification of high risk patients for preterm deliveries and care coordination home visits for a comprehensive OB program. Aspire will partner with local hospitals to ensure mothers continued to receive high quality prenatal care after 28 weeks, and will work cooperatively to ensure strong educational components are included during this period, and that post-birth care is facilitated. This program will allow Aspire Indiana Health to expand a culturally appropriate program that is focused on the health of infants, their mothers and creating a safe environment for their long term development.

County: Madison Region: Eastern

The Community Hospital Anderson, social service team plan to continue to implement the Baby & Me/Tobacco Free Program. CHA provides supportive services to patients seeking care with the Community Physicians Network Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Anderson Jane Pauley Community Health Center. The BMTF addresses the relationship between maternal smoking in pregnancy and sudden infant death syndrome. Continuing to provide smoking cessation education, counseling and interventions will directly impact the infant mortality rate in our catchment area. Community Hospital Anderson has implemented the Baby & Me/Tobacco Free Program by integrating it into the scope of services provided at their OB-GYN Clinics. These sites will follow the BMTF’s implementation protocols and proven strategies for conducting the program. Community outreach programs that we participate in include: the Pregnant and Parenting Teens Program, the Community Outreach Services Program and the Community Wellness Cooperative Program.

County: Madison Region: Eastern

Community Wellness Partners Speak Life: Here to Stay Initiative will focus efforts on African-American and Hispanic/Latino women between the ages of 20 to 35 who are either on or eligible for Medicaid. The initiative will provide expectant mothers with multiple community touch points during their pregnancy and up to the first year of age of the child. First time pregnancies will be referred to the Nurse Family Partnership partners. If this is not the mother’s first pregnancy, she will be referred to the community-based pillar of the initiative. While participating in the program, the mother will be provided with system navigation paired with birth and post-partum doula and community health worker services for ongoing support and education, home visits to provide practical support, advocacy, educational materials, and resources using evidence-based curriculum.

County: St. Joseph Region: Northern
Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc. will address infant mortality through Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), an evidence-based community health program with more than 38 years of research showing significant improvements in health and life course for first-time moms and their children living in poverty. Goodwill will target a population of low-income primiparous women, as well as 40-50 multiparous women who face risk factors for infant mortality such as chronic health problems, poor access to health care, smoking, substance use disorders, and lack of housing or transportation. Goodwill will integrate the nurse home visiting practice with healthcare systems to drive better outcomes for families through improvement in the delivery of health services. An established team of nurses in the central region will be able to structure the care they are providing in a more formalized way, ensuring clients at highest risk receive continuity of care at every level: home, community, clinic, and hospital. Funds will also be used to expand the population of focus to a pilot of multiparous women who are at high risk for infant loss.

County: Marion    Region: Central

Greene County General Hospital will expand its existing Sweet Dreams Baby Bundles program, established in October 2015, which models Finland’s Baby Box program with the addition of target populated-specific activities to reduce infant mortality rates in Green and surrounding counties in the Central Southwestern District of Indiana. The program is incentive-based and begins with referrals from area physicians. Women are required to complete an education session every trimester and attend all physician appointments. Sessions focus on perinatal risks, safe sleep practices, infant CPR, breastfeeding, and tobacco cession if needed. Each baby bundle can be used as a bassinet for sleep safety and is filled with supplies for the baby’s first few months. Women successfully completing the prenatal requirements receive their baby bundle upon delivery. New partnerships as part of program expansion include increased breastfeeding support, possible WIC enrollment, Early Head Start Education, access to Pack ‘n Plays, and family TDAP vaccinations.

County: Greene    Region: Central Southwestern

The Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) aims to support Indiana hospitals with the successful adoption and execution of the Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative (IPQIC) Governing Council-approved Quality Improvement Committee’s Hospital Practice Safe Sleep recommendations. These recommendations influence a reduction in accidental suffocation deaths and provide an opportunity to glean insight of the regional barriers to racial and cultural acceptance of safe sleep recommendations. IHA will provide the logistics and support to deploy a statewide hospital-led education and cultural awareness campaign on the importance of safe sleep. Successful rollout of the Hospital Practice Safe Sleep recommendations include safe sleep policy adoption, related staff development to model safe sleep practices with consistent messaging, staff practice compliance audits, awareness of local safe sleep distribution sites and the Cribs for Kids National Hospital Certification Program.

County: Statewide    Region: Statewide
Mental Health America of Lake County will utilize The Best Beginnings project to focus on vulnerable pregnant and parenting teens, age 14 to 19 and women in Lake County. This project features the initiation of new strategies including evidence-based Baby & Me Tobacco Free and a new breastfeeding collaboration with local hospitals. Additionally the project focuses on expansion and enhancement of safe sleep education and existing home visiting programs Parents As Teachers and Empowering Teens As Parents (PAT/ETAP). These home visiting programs are founded on evidence-based curriculum and fill the gaps in providing services to vulnerable families that exist due to stringent requirements for other home visiting programs. Grant activities will cover all of Lake County, with an emphasis on East Chicago, Gary, and Hammond where higher poverty, lower graduation rates, and higher unemployment rates are prevalent. Mental Health America of Lake County (MHALC) will engage existing hospital partnerships with Methodist Hospitals, Community Healthcare System, and Franciscan Alliance, as well as the county’s Federally-qualified health centers, school systems, and other referral partners. MHALC will also focus efforts on creating new partnerships with relevant agencies.

County: Lake  Region: Northwestern

One Community One Family will address infant mortality through a three-tiered approach building upon the existing backbone infrastructure in southeastern Indiana, implementing prenatal care coordination to address high risk populations. Key elements include the Incredible Years parenting program, trauma and depression screenings, and increase provider capacity through trainings and consultation to address at-risk populations. Outreach efforts and education will address the general population. This three-tiered approach allows for both targeted and broad impact for maximum exposure. One Community One Family will lead the charge against infant mortality through a partnership with Choices Coordinated Care Solutions, the primary partner, and with an evaluation team from Indiana University to ensure continuous improvement and sustainability through data-driven decisions.

County: Franklin  Region: Southeastern

Union Hospital will develop and implement an evidence-based Perinatal Nurse Navigator Program to decrease neonatal and post neonatal infant mortality as well as the number of infant suffocation deaths in the central southwestern region. The Perinatal Nurse Navigator Program is a collaborative effort between Union Hospital, community obstetrician providers and offices, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children and Chances and Services for Youth. The navigation program will focus on assisting at risk pregnant women in order to impact coordination of services to meet social, financial or medical needs. The program’s intent is to decrease infant mortality in the Central Southwestern Region of Indiana. Interventions will specifically be designed to enhance compliance of prenatal care and visit attendance, smoking cessation and establishment of best practice infant nutrition and sleep practices to enrich the newborn’s quality and duration of life. The foundation of this project has been established with administrative support and can be successfully implemented upon approval of funding.

County: Vigo  Region: Central Southwestern
WeCare Plus, a partnership of healthcare, public, and community organizations, will reduce infant mortality in Indiana’s Central region through outreach, health coaching, community engagement, and mobile health (mHealth) messaging technology. WeCare Plus builds on the foundation of an existing program currently implementing behavioral change interventions to high-risk women in two federally qualified health centers in Marion and Delaware counties. WeCare Plus support will permit dissemination of the current model to Indiana’s Central region targeting fathers as well as women for preventive services, an enhanced role for a larger cadre of community health workers serving as coaches, and additions to the current network of partners of health-relevant non-traditional partners and public health first responders. WeCare Plus will focus on the highest risk and most population-dense counties in the targeted region with potential for the highest impact, specifically non-Hispanic white and African American mothers, and mothers on Medicaid or living below the federal poverty level.

County: Marion      Region: Central