



AABC State Chapters



P u r p o s e



Why start an AABC chapter?


We believe in the power of community mobilization and support. State chapters are an opportunity to bring AABC's national recognition and influence to your local initiatives.



Partnership with AABC provides:

Support	Infrastructure	Collaboration
AABC member lists to grow your base	501(c)6 status	Government Affairs Input
Quarterly leadership meet-ups	AABC email address, state logo and communications platform	Industry Relations advice
Credibility with state and local agencies	Meeting space at the annual Birth Institute	State legislative campaign showcases

Overview



As an AABC state chapter, you'll be a nonprofit organization. You'll first become incorporated with your state and then apply for tax exemption under AABC's umbrella as a 501(c)6. This designation allows you to fundraise and lobby for solutions at the state level.

Elected chapter leaders will facilitate meetings, educational events and initiatives with the input of all members. AABC National will offer support and guidance to enhance your impact.

Organizing collectively with other birth centers and supporters is an effective way to increase birth center access for families and increase birth center sustainability for owners and staff.

To get started you'll need:

- 3 AABC members to sign the application petition
- Proof of nonprofit incorporation and EIN
- Application materials including: articles of incorporation, bylaws, affiliation agreement, chapter minimum standards, and chapter policies

AABC National Support

Application & orientation

- AABC's State Chapter Staff Liaison will guide you through the application process
- We'll help you incorporate as a nonprofit with your state and apply for your EIN.

Elections

- AABC formats and distributes a candidate bulletin including head shots and bios
- AABC conducts voting and announces results

Member needs assessment

- Every three years we'll craft a survey that speaks to your specific goals and concerns to illicit feedback from your membership
- AABC national can help you with strategic planning to integrate this valuable feedback

Nonprofit administration

- Maintaining nonprofit incorporation requires some legwork
- Our State Chapter Staff Liaison keeps a detailed checkpoint calendar to help officers stay up to date



AABC v CABC

What's the difference?

AABC

Publishes nationally recognized Standards for Birth Centers

Engages in legislative advocacy, education, research, and member engagement

Acts as a national hub for information on the birth center model of care

CABC

Publishes the Indicators for accreditation. Choses to use AABC's Standards as the basis for the Indicators

Educates, assesses and grants accreditation to birth centers

Confirms that individual accredited birth centers adhere to standards of excellence

While AABC supports accreditation as a standard of excellence, members are not required to be accredited or to seek accreditation.

Application Process

Planning

- Identify 3 AABC members to establish the chapter
- Establish chapter's mission, goals and objectives, in alignment with AABC

Nonprofit Status

- Apply for nonprofit incorporation in your state
 - Submit Articles of Incorporation to AABC with your application
- Apply for an Employer Identification Number through the IRS
 - Submit form, not receipt, with application
- Federal 501(c)6 status (AABC Group Exemption Program available)

Application Materials

- Review and sign:
 - Affiliation Agreement
 - Minimum Standards
 - Chapter Application Petition
- Amend Bylaws (template provided)
- Amend Chapter Policies (9 policy documents, templates provided)

Fees

- Fees
 - Application fee: \$100
 - 501(c)6 if using AABC: \$400 (one time)
 - Liability insurance if using AABC's policy: \$500 (or obtain independently)

Submit (2 weeks prior to AABC Board Meeting)

- Mission, goals, objectives
- All application materials
- Fees
- Nonprofit articles of incorporation and EIN

Chapter Operation

After the board approves your application, you'll begin to hold meetings, set dues structure and run your first elections. You'll also be able to petition, advocate, and lobby as a group. This lobbying power enables you to educate payors and stakeholders on the value proposition of the birth center model, which helps all birth centers access fair contracts. Your chapter will decide which initiatives and collaborations to take on in your state to best serve your members. About every three years, the chapter will hold elections, conduct a member needs assessment, and review its bylaws.

You'll work closely with AABC National to achieve your goals and stay in compliance with state and federal nonprofit administration requirements.

