

Perinatal Health Advocacy Priorities' List

These priorities were shaped by community feedback, reflecting the real experiences and needs of families

1

Strengthen Postpartum Support & Protections

Maternal health disparities are all around us. Not enough time off, few mental health resources after birth, and financial stress make it harder for parents to stay healthy. Families need more paid leave for birth, loss, and NICU care, along with longer Medicaid coverage after pregnancy.

4

Maternal Health and IPV Protections

Intimate partner violence often worsens during pregnancy and after birth. Many survivors face fear and overwhelm when trying to get help, so routine check-ins, confidential protocols, emergency support, and insurance and work protections are necessary.

2

Expand Doula Access & Fair Coverage

Doulas are often ignored, paid too little, and poorly understood. In some cases, they aren't allowed in hospitals. We need doulas in our hospitals, fair reimbursements for doula services, and expanded paid leave and postpartum coverage.

5

Hospital Accountability & Birth Equity

Families often face disrespect, racism, and their pain being ignored in hospitals. This calls for anti-racism training, clear patient rights, public reporting of outcomes, Birth Equity Boards, and improvements led by the community.

3

Expand Birth Options & Address Birth Deserts

When hospitals close, transportation is hard to access, and families don't know their options. Many communities are left without maternity care, but expanding birth centers, supporting midwives equally, providing transportation help, studying the impact of closures, and funding Black midwives can improve access.

6

Support for NICU & Special-Needs Families

NICU families and parents of children with special needs often do not get enough emotional, practical, or financial help, and these gaps can be filled with a NICU Parent Bill of Rights, proper caregiver training, help with daily costs, home visits for up to two years, and a Special Needs Family Resource Network.