

Strategy: **Build safe, supportive and connected communities**



The Mom and Baby Action Network is building cross-sector partnerships that invest in, influence and leverage collective action to lead broad changes in policy, research, funding and systems to address the root causes of inequities in maternal and infant health. Our common agenda includes five overarching strategies, with several solutions contained within each strategy.

Numerous facets of community life impact mom and baby health, including: access to & investment in health services; social isolation, mental health, and the burden of stress; transportation systems; community infrastructure and revitalization; the availability and quality of community spaces; access to nutritious food; workforce development programs; and community policing and law enforcement.

Investing in local communities is an important way to address multiple social drivers of health that impact mom and baby. Neighborhood opportunity, when measured by poverty, income and deprivation, is associated with preterm birth.

Work Group Focus

Promote investment in communities and revitalization programs. Advocate for doula and community health worker training & reimbursement. Support and implement fresh food and nutrition programs and funding at the community level. Advocate for law enforcement reform including increased mental health supports, implicit bias, and de-escalation training.

Solutions Overview

Examples below demonstrate the types of solutions that national, state, and local stakeholders may choose to pursue in partnership with the Mom and Baby Action Network.

- **Policy & Legislative Change**
 - *Advocate for grant programs to local municipalities to support social and physical revitalization projects that employ and train community members.*
- **System & Institutional Change**
 - *Develop and/or enhance mechanisms to sustainably support affordable access to fresh foods in food deserts (I.e. mobile farmers markets and coop-markets)*
 - *Alter policies to create citizen accountability boards and community-connected policing.*
- **Programs & Training**
 - *Expand equitable access to community supportive models such as group prenatal care and parenting support groups.*
 - *Expand access to culturally-congruent home visiting, community doula, and Healthy Start services.*
 - *Leverage technology to reduce social isolation among pregnant and parenting people.*
- **Research & Data**
 - *Research and catalog community-based interventions demonstrating improvements in equitable birth and maternal health outcomes.*