



## **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 and investment in health services; 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 communities is an important way to address multiple social drivers of health that impact moms, babies, and their families. Neighborhood opportunity, when measured by poverty, income, and deprivation, is associated with preterm birth.

### **Strategic focus**

Support the expansion of the community-based doula workforce and adoption of doula-friendly practices by healthcare systems. Advocate for Medicaid and private insurer coverage of doula services at a rate that supports a livable wage. Support the inclusion of community voices to inform community policy, programs, and solutions.

### **Solutions overview**

The 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 and legislative change**
  - *Fund and implement grant programs to local municipalities to support social and physical revitalization projects that employ and train community members.*
- **System and institutional change**
  - *Establish and fund a national partnership to provide grants to fund mobile farmers markets, bus stop markets, and co-op markets in food deserts with equitable pricing for fresh foods.*
  - *Alter policies to create citizen accountability boards and community-connected policing.*
- **Programs and training**
  - *Implement community supportive groups in low-resourced communities.*
  - *Support and spread home visiting programs with staff who are representative of the communities served.*
- **Research and data**
  - *Research and catalog community-based interventions demonstrating improvements in birth and maternal outcomes.*

\*This list is not exhaustive. See the National Equity Framework Guide for additional solutions

To learn more about the Action Network and help move this important collaborative work forward, sign up at [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://IgnitingImpactTogether.org)