



## Strategy: Increase access to high-quality healthcare



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.

This strategy focuses on curbing the rising maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates, especially among Black, Indigenous, and other people of color by addressing the quality, value, and access gaps that currently exist. In the last decade, the number of obstetric providers and hospitals with risk-appropriate care available to families living in rural areas has been on the decline, making it harder to access high-quality appropriate care before and after pregnancy.

Solutions in this strategy also focus on increasing the racial diversity of the maternity care provider workforce, training on stigma and implicit bias, and implementing programs that focus on improving quality care and healthy outcomes.

### STRATEGIC FOCUS

Advocate for policies to increase equitable access to risk-appropriate birthing options, especially in [maternity care deserts](#). Support programs that aim to increase racial diversity in the healthcare workforce. Identify and develop best practices for stigma and implicit bias training.

### 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**
  - *Remove system barriers preventing the full scope of qualified healthcare providers from delivering high-quality, high-value obstetrical and gynecological care.*
  - *Support the establishment of new freestanding birth centers.*
- **System and institutional change**
  - *Create and/or enhance coordinated intake and referral across services.*
  - *Expand mobile medical care and telehealth solutions in medically under-resourced geographies.*
- **Programs and training**
  - *Implement and spread the NY toolkit for safe and respectful care.*
  - *Provide implicit bias and anti-racism training to maternity care staff.*
- **Research and data**
  - *Use modeling to identify the most appropriate community and clinical interventions to reduce the risk of preterm birth and maternal health risks and death.*

\*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)