



Strategy: Promote environmental justice



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 addressing inequities in toxic exposures and climate change threats. People of color and low-income populations are inequitably affected by a lack of infrastructure and inadequate substandard housing compared to White and mid/high-income populations.

Pregnant people exposed to high temperatures and air pollution are more likely to give birth preterm or to underweight or stillborn babies, as well as suffer from eclampsia and preeclampsia. Involvement in the environmental justice movement is crucial to giving all birthing people and their babies the best possible start.

Strategic focus

Advocate for policies that promote free testing and grants for the remediation of current toxins. Support review and expansion of workplace accommodations for pregnant people. Promote data collection on birth outcomes to help identify potential environmental hazards and advocate for their clean up.

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**
 - *Limit air pollution/emissions with incentives and enforcement of sanctions.*
 - *Increase funding to the EPA and HUD specifically for community grants to address environmental threats.*
- **System and institutional change**
 - *Require rentals and property sales to disclose and appropriately educate on potential exposures to toxins.*
 - *Require ongoing monitoring and reporting of community toxins (air, water, soil).*
- **Programs and training**
 - *Promote and act on research showing the impact of environmental threats on maternal and infant health.*
 - *Support local coalitions to advance relevant actions when environmental links to poor health outcomes are identified.*
- **Research and data**
 - *Research connection between redlined neighborhoods, heat vulnerability, and poor 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