



Strategy: Advance economic opportunity



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.

Conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including socioeconomic status, education, living environment, employment, and access to quality healthcare can have a profound impact on health outcomes throughout one's life course. Poverty often limits access to safe neighborhoods, healthy foods, and good jobs which have a direct impact on health outcomes.

Research has shown a direct link between poverty and poor outcomes, including low birthweight, psychosocial issues, malnutrition, and low educational attainment. Poverty is also closely linked to infectious disease spread, as demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic focus

Advocate for funding and programs that increase access to education and safe and affordable housing, and subsidize support for families such as quality childcare, free preschool, and pre-kindergarten. Support policies such as eliminating diaper tax, baby bonds, guaranteed basic income, and more.

Solutions overview

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

- **Policy and legislative change**
 - *Ensure universal access to equitable and affordable housing.*
 - *Increase spending for primary and secondary education/schools.*
- **System and institutional change**
 - *Perform regular pay audits within institutions and state governments.*
 - *Scale-creating moves to opportunity programs across local HUD/Housing Choice/Section 8 departments.*
- **Programs and training**
 - *Expand programs that help create sustainable first-time home ownership.*
 - *Expand state programs that provide free college tuition.*
- **Research and data**
 - *Explore international best practices in workforce development programs and identify federal best practices for workforce development.*
 - *Quantify on average how many homeless pregnant women need housing.*

*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