



Hi everyone, welcome to the August edition of the Momnibus Memo!

This Monday, Black Maternal Health Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Alma Adams and Rep. Lauren Underwood hosted the fourth annual Black Maternal Health Caucus Stakeholder Summit in Joliet, Illinois.

The summit highlighted recent federal progress to improve maternal health outcomes, provided training on how to access federal funding secured by the Caucus, spotlighted opportunities to continue advancing the Momnibus Act and key maternal health legislative priorities, and helped build partnerships and strategies to end the maternal health crisis in the United States. We left the summit this year more energized than ever to pass the Momnibus, and we hope you all enjoyed the day!

If you couldn't attend in person or missed the live stream, you can watch the recordings of the full day, including panels and breakout sessions, [here](#) and [here](#). Photos from the Summit will be made available soon, so be sure to keep an eye on the BMHC social media channels.

Federal Funding and Other Opportunities For Action

Advancing Methods for Safe, Noninvasive, Real Time Assessment of Placenta Development and Function Across Pregnancy

This grant is focused on advancing and clinically validating innovative approaches to assess the development and function of the human placenta in real time throughout pregnancy. The initiative seeks to encourage the development of safe, non-invasive, or minimally invasive methods that can provide dynamic insights into placental health. By building on the progress made through the Human Placenta Project (HPP), this funding opportunity aims to translate emerging technologies and approaches into clinical practice. The ultimate goal is to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of placental dysfunction disorders, with potential applications extending to the assessment of other internal organs.

Who Can Apply: Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments, and Federal Government.

Deadline to Apply: 10/5/2024

Learn more [here](#).

Effect of HIV and Substance Use Comorbidity on the Placenta and Maternal Outcomes Department of Health and Human Services

This grant is aimed at advancing research on the effects of HIV and anti-retroviral therapy (ART) on the growth, development, and functioning of the placenta in pregnant individuals with substance use or misuse. The funding opportunity seeks to explore how placental abnormalities impact maternal outcomes in people living with HIV (PLWH) who also struggle with substance use. Additionally, it aims to uncover the underlying mechanisms driving these effects, with a focus on improving maternal and fetal health outcomes.

Who Can Apply: Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments, and Federal Government.

Deadline to Apply: Letter of intent due by **10/15/2024** and full application due by **11/15/2024**

Learn more [here](#).

Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Proposed Rule

On July 10, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed new Medicare payment rates for hospital outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center services. Notably, CMS is suggesting updated requirements for maternal quality assessment and performance improvement, foundational standards for organizational structure, staffing, and care delivery within obstetrical units, and annual training for staff in maternal health settings. CMS also proposes revisions to improve emergency care and transfer and discharge protocols for pregnant, birthing, and postpartum individuals. These proposals stem from available evidence and stakeholder feedback, and **CMS specifically seeks input on extending these requirements to rural emergency hospitals.** The Final Rule is released annually in November with a 60-day comment period ending on **September 9, 2024.**

Who Can Apply: The public, specifically regarding extending these requirements into rural emergency hospitals.

Deadline to Comment: 9/1/2024

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

The Road to Prevention of Stillbirth - Clinical Research Centers

This funding invites applications for participation as a Research Center in the Stillbirth Research Consortium. The Research Centers, in collaboration with the Data Coordinating Center, will support cutting-edge research to advance knowledge in stillbirth-related studies across the United States, with a focus on reducing the incidence of stillbirth in vulnerable populations through an equity lens. It is crucial to investigate the specific mechanisms and risk factors contributing to stillbirth, which include maternal, placental, and fetal factors, as well as social determinants of health. The consortium aims to foster collaboration among awarded centers to maximize resources and address both individual and systemic factors to reduce stillbirth rates.

Who can Comment: Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments, and Federal Government.

Deadline to Apply: Letter of intent due by **10/1/2024** and full application due by **11/1/2024**

Learn more [here](#).

Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

This 10-year voluntary service delivery and payment model aims to enhance maternal health care outcomes for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees. Known as the TMaH Model, it will assess whether focused technical assistance, along with reforms in payment and delivery systems, can promote comprehensive care throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, ultimately reducing expenditures for Medicaid and CHIP programs. CMS will choose up to 15 state Medicaid agencies (SMAs or Recipients) to take part in the TMaH Model.

Who can Apply: State governments

Deadline to Apply: 9/20/2024

Learn more [here](#).

Understanding the Impact of Healthcare System and Clinician Factors on Disparities in Maternal Morbidity and Mortality

This funding supports multidisciplinary and innovative intervention research to address maternal morbidity and mortality in the United States, with a particular focus on racial and ethnic minority, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and underserved rural populations. The grant is part of the NIH's Implementing a Maternal health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) Initiative, which aims to understand and address the factors affecting pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality. IMPROVE emphasizes reducing preventable maternal deaths and improving health outcomes before, during, and after delivery, with a special focus on health disparities among disproportionately affected populations.

Who Can Apply: Higher Education Institutions, Nonprofits, For-Profit Organizations, Local Governments, and Federal Government.

Deadline to Apply: 02/05/2027

Learn more [here](#).

If you're applying for one of the funding opportunities above, don't forget to reach out to your Representative and Senators to see if they can provide a letter of support to bolster your application! To find your Members of Congress, visit <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>.

2024 Black Maternal Health Caucus Summit

On August 26, 2024, Representatives Alma Adams (NC-12) and Lauren Underwood (IL-14) called on Congress to immediately pass the Momnibus Act at the Black Maternal Health Caucus 2024 Stakeholder Summit, held in Joliet, IL.

The summit highlighted recent federal progress to improve maternal health outcomes, provided training on how to access federal funding secured by the Caucus and other resources, spotlighted opportunities to continue advancing the Momnibus Act and key maternal health legislative priorities, and helped build partnerships and strategies to end the maternal health crisis in the United States. It also included a resource fair where attendees could learn more about local services. This is the fourth annual Stakeholder Summit since the Caucus was founded by Underwood and Adams in 2019.

The summit drew a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers, healthcare professionals, activists, and community leaders, who engaged in a series of dynamic discussions and workshops. It was headlined by Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Carole Johnson, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration; Wanda Irving, Co-Founder, Dr. Shalon's Maternal Action Project Inc.; Tatyana Ali, actress Founder of Baby Yams, and Celebrity Advocate for March of Dimes; and Charles Johnson, Founder of 4Kira4Moms. Other speakers included community advocates, experts, government officials, and industry leaders.

Watch the recordings of the 2024 Black Maternal Health Caucus Stakeholder Summit [here](#).

This week is Black Breastfeeding Week!

Rep. Alma Adams introduced a resolution with Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman to recognize Black Breastfeeding Week from August 25 to August 31, 2024. The resolution aims to bring national attention to the important role that breastfeeding plays in improving Black Maternal and Infant Health outcomes in the United States.

This year's theme, Listen Up! Reclaiming Our Narrative & Centering Our Stories for Breastfeeding Justice, celebrates all the voices and journeys of Black birthing families. It also recognizes the power of narrative shift and amplifies storytelling as a key catalyst for equity and justice in lactation. The week was founded by community leaders Kimberly Seals Allers, Kiddada Green, and Anayah Sangodele-Ayoka. Find out how to get involved in community events [here](#).

August Community Spotlight

During the August district work period, Rep. Alma Adams took her message on ending the Black Maternal Health Crisis and securing women's reproductive rights throughout North Carolina, from Charlotte to Raleigh. She participated in a panel at the North Carolina Council for Women Conference to discuss the current landscape of abortion access in the state and how the issue is deeply tied to Black Maternal Health.



Articles of the Month

Women's Health Issues: [Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts Among Women Veterans Using VA Reproductive Health Care: Prevalence and Associations With Fertility-, Pregnancy- and Parenting-related Factors](#)

KFF Health News: [Journalists Highlight Maternal Health Challenges in Rural America, From Iowa to Georgia](#)

Baltimore Sun: [Morgan State University leads nationwide, federally funded research on maternal health disparities](#)

WCNC Charlotte: ['These disparities exist' | Lincoln County couple shares story of grief, praises new law aimed at stillbirth prevention](#)

Reuters: [Venture Capital Firms Making Bets on Maternal Health](#)

MedCity News: [Maternal Health Crisis: Lack of Access to Care "Doesn't Paint the Whole Picture," Expert Says looking for my academic](#)

General Resources

The National Maternal Mental Health Hotline is free, confidential, and here to help, 24/7, all expecting and new mothers. Call or text at 1-833-TLC-MAMA (or 1-833-853-6262). To learn more about the hotline or access shareable materials, please visit [here](#).

The Office on Women's Health offers [resources](#) for finding support for postpartum depression.

The [CDC Hear Her](#) campaign has resources for raising awareness of urgent maternal warning signs during and after pregnancy.

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