



Happy September!

Please find below an overview of federal funding and action opportunities, recent Black Maternal Health Caucus press releases, the September Community Spotlight, articles of the month, and general resources.

Federal Funding and Other Opportunities For Action

NIH IMPROVE Initiative: RADx® Tech ACT ENDO Challenge:

The National Institutes of Health is offering up to \$3 million in cash prizes to accelerate development of non-invasive technologies to improve diagnosis of endometriosis—a common and often debilitating gynecological disease. [The RADx® Tech ACT ENDO Challenge](#) seeks to shorten the time to diagnosis, eliminate the invasiveness of current techniques, and/or improve accessibility, safety, convenience and costs of diagnosis. NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) are co-leading the challenge.

Who Can Apply: Technology developers and innovators
Deadline to Apply: 10/11/2024
Learn more [here](#).

NIH Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) Initiative 5th Anniversary Meeting

The NIH Implementing a Maternal health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone ([IMPROVE](#)) Initiative invites you to join an event to mark its 5th anniversary on **October 15-16 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM ET**.

The meeting will bring together IMPROVE awardees, past and present, as well as the wider maternal health research community and community partners to recognize the initiative's achievements to date. The event also aims to foster dialogue and information sharing among the research community, and discussion about possible future directions for the IMPROVE program.

Who Can Attend: Maternal health research community and community partners
RSVP [here](#) and **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](#).

Department of Health and Human Services Call for Commitments on Maternal Health

In connection with the one-year anniversary of the Task Force on Maternal Mental Health launch, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is expanding efforts to advance maternal mental health and would like to learn about any new initiatives that have the potential to substantially improve maternal mental health awareness and services nationwide. HHS is asking interested organizations to submit commitments highlighting new initiatives that address challenges and barriers to maternal mental health care. HHS will collect commitments through **November 15, 2024, and announce them publicly in early 2025.**

Who can Apply: Any interested organization

Deadline to Apply: 11/15/2024

Learn more by reaching out to Cyntrice Bellamy (Cyntrice.Bellamy@hhs.gov)

Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) has announced the re-competition of the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program. This nationwide group of mentored institutional career development programs trains junior faculty who have recently completed postgraduate clinical training in obstetrics and gynecology and are committed to an independent research career in women's reproductive health. The goal of this program is to continue to build the national capacity of outstanding junior clinician-investigators who will strengthen the field of obstetrics and gynecology and contribute to the improvement of women's health.

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

Deadline to Apply: 11/15/2024

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>.

Happy National Stillbirth Prevention Day!

This month, Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12) joined Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA-01) and U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) to introduce H.Res. 1474, a bipartisan, bicameral resolution recognizing September 19th as National Stillbirth Prevention Day. She also met with a group of Stillbirth Prevention organizations for a day of advocacy here in Washington. To wrap up the commemoration, Congresswoman Adams was honored with the Stillbirth Prevention Champion award from Health Birth Day, Inc. for her advocacy on Maternal Health.



Rep. Adams pictured with Stillbirth Prevention advocates with Healthy Birth Day and MomsRising.

NIH IMPROVE Initiative Announces Community for Maternal Health Challenge Winners

Earlier this month, the final winners of the Connecting the Community for Maternal Health Challenge were announced. The Maternal Health Challenge was made possible through the NIH IMPROVE (Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes

Vision for Everyone) Initiative, with funding secured by the Black Maternal Health Caucus. First place was awarded to Nurturely of Eugene, Oregon. Second place was awarded to Central Jersey Family Health Consortium of North Brunswick, New Jersey. Five organizations tied for third place with approximately \$1.5 million in cash prizes being distributed among all winners. Congratulations to all the winners!

The NIH IMPROVE Initiative announcement on this funding is available [here](#). The full text of the NIH IMPROVE Act can be viewed [here](#). Read the full press release [here](#).

September Community Spotlight

This month, we are highlighting two incredible partners in the maternal health space: the Congressional Dad's Caucus and 4Kira4Moms. The Black Maternal Health Caucus teamed up with Congressional Dad's Caucus and 4Kira4Moms to host a "Fathers in the Fight for Maternal Health Breakfast" on September 12 as well as the "Dad's Got Something to Say!" Congressional briefing on September 17. These events engaged policymakers, advocates, and the general public in a necessary conversation about the Momnibus Act, maternal health disparities, and the unique role of fathers in this fight.



4Kira4Moms was founded by Charles Johnson after the tragic loss of his wife Kira Johnson due to childbirth complications in 2016. 4Kira4Moms advocates for improved maternal health policies and regulations, educates about the impact of maternal mortality

in our communities, provides support to victims' loved ones, and approaches maternal mortality as a human rights issue. Read more about 4Kira4Moms [here](#).

The Congressional Dad's Caucus, founded in 2020, is a collective of lawmakers committed to advancing family-friendly policies and advocating for the rights and needs of fathers. With a focus on centering the experiences and challenges of dads, the Caucus strives to address systemic inequities in family support and social services. The Congressional Dad's Caucus is a strong supporter of the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Act, a suite of bills addressing various dimensions of the maternal health crisis. Their advocacy underscores the importance of paternal involvement in promoting maternal health and ensuring that legislative measures reflect the needs of all family members. Read more about the Congressional Dad's Caucus [here](#).

Articles of the Month

Health Affairs: [What Policy Makers Need To Know About The US Maternal Mortality Rate Controversy](#)

JAMA Network: [Trends in Maternal Death Post-Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health](#)

Sage Journals: [Racial Stress and Black Women's Health in the United States: A Culturally Responsive Prevention and Health Promotion Intervention](#)

The Commonwealth Fund: [How Community-Led Maternal Health Models Can Thrive with Federal Funding](#)

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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