



# THE MOMNIBUS MEMO

from BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS  
REPRESENTATIVES ALMA ADAMS and LAUREN UNDERWOOD

## Save the Date for Stakeholder Summit

Co-Chairs Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams announced that the Black Maternal Health Caucus 2024 Stakeholder Summit will be held in-person in Joliet, Illinois on Monday, August 26, 2024. The event will highlight progress in improving maternal health outcomes, spotlight opportunities to advance the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act and key maternal health legislative priorities and help build partnerships and strategies to end the maternal health crisis in the United States. A virtual option for participation will be available.

Interested attendees should fill out the [attendee interest form](#), and those interested in contributing to the programming of the summit should fill out the [participant interest form](#). Interested members of the media should send an email to [BlackMaternalHealthCaucus@mail.house.gov](mailto:BlackMaternalHealthCaucus@mail.house.gov).

Read the full press release for the [2024 Stakeholder Summit](#), as well as the press release for the [2023 Stakeholder Summit](#).

## Federal Funding Opportunities

### Center for Maternal and Child Health Medicaid Partnerships

This funding is available to public or private organizations and Tribal governments to build knowledge and shared priorities between state Medicaid, CHIP, and Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant programs (Title V) and provide one-to-one, state-specific tailored assistance directly to state Medicaid, CHIP, and Title V programs to support maternal and child health populations.

**Who can Apply:** Public or private organizations, inclusive of Tribal led organizations, or Tribal governments

**Deadline to Apply:** 7/10/2024

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

# Maternal and Child Health Policy Innovation Program

This funding is available to public or private organizations and Tribal governments to provide technical assistance (TA) to intergovernmental stakeholders, including governors' offices, state legislatures, state and local health officials, and other state and local officials to help them develop and implement policy initiatives that improve outcomes and reduce related health disparities. Technical assistance can take the form of (1) convening learning communities (LCs) that engage diverse stakeholders and (2) developing and disseminating informational resources such as (but not limited to) policy briefs, webinars, and/or legislation trackers.

**Who can Apply:** Public or private organizations, inclusive of Tribal led organizations, or Tribal governments

**Deadline to Apply:** 09/01/2024

**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>.**

## Featured News

### All of Us HBCU Road Tour in Greensboro, North Carolina

On Saturday, June 29th, North Carolina A&T State University and its Center of Excellence for Integrative Health Disparities and Equity Research (CIHDER) hosted the All of Us HBCU (Historically Black College or University) Road Tour in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The HBCU Road Tour highlights how HBCUs are using the National Institutes of Health's 'All of Us' research program dataset and community engagement strategies to address health disparities by building sustainable and trusted relationships between minority communities and researchers to advance health equity. It also celebrates HBCUs as knowledge-building hubs and to support faculty and students in their research careers.

Rep. Alma Adams, a North Carolina A&T alumna and founder and co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, spoke on the important role that HBCUs play in ensuring that there is overall equity in healthcare as they help to ensure inclusivity from research and data to doctors and other care providers. We recognize the significance of this inclusivity in the Momnibus Act as we seek to diversify the perinatal workforce by increased funding for HBCUs, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to study maternal health as well as grant funding for research, technology, and benefits for all birthing people and their medical processes.

**Representatives Josh Gottheimer and Lauren Underwood Advocate for Momnibus Legislation**

On June 11th, Representative Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5), joined by Co-Chair Underwood, reaffirmed his commitment to improving maternal health both federally and in his home state of New Jersey.

"We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world, but our health outcomes should reflect that fact. We cannot stand by as thousands of women pass away from preventable conditions and thousands of babies grow up, robbed of their moms," said Representative Gottheimer, a member of the Black Maternal Health Caucus and sponsor of the Momnibus. "That's why I'm taking steps with Congresswoman Underwood to put a stop to our country's maternal health crisis."

"I'm so thankful for Congressman Gottheimer's strong voice as a leader on this issue and for partnering with us to advance the Momnibus" said Congresswoman Lauren Underwood. "Moms across our country have been demanding a comprehensive solution to this crisis. And so, we looked at the data, we talked to the experts, and we talked to community leaders, and we wrote that comprehensive solution. The Momnibus is designed to solve America's maternal health crisis, and I'm so grateful that we have great partners in Congress like Representative Gottheimer and Senator Booker alongside us as we get this legislation signed into law."

Video of the announcement can be found [here](#).

Not sure if your Representatives support Momnibus legislation? A list of Momnibus cosponsors in the House can be found [here](#) and a list of cosponsors in the Senate can be found [here](#).

## Maternal Health Film Screening

On June 14th, the DC/DOX Film Festival invited Cristy Turlington Burns, founder and president of Every Mother Counts; Kate Dumke, Co-Director of *Preconceived*, Nicole Mackinlay Hahn, Director of *Giving Birth In America: Arkansas*, and Co-Chair Underwood to speak at a panel entitled "Films Drive Action: Maternal Health & Reproductive Rights Case Studies". With Shefali Luthra, health reporter at The 19th serving as a moderator, the discussion focused on the importance of storytelling when talking about maternal health.

During the conversation, Representative Underwood highlighted the story of Kira Johnson, and how her death during childbirth led to the creation of the [Kira Johnson Act](#), which would provide funding directly to community-based organizations working to advance maternal health equity. The films discussed in the panel, *Giving Birth in America: Arkansas* and *Preconceived*, also tackled the issue of the intersection of storytelling and advocacy, focusing on how community support changes birthing outcomes.

Find out more about the panelists and films [here](#), and more about Kira Johnson's story [here](#).

## NIH IMPROVE Community Research Showcase

The NIH IMPROVE Initiative is hosting a [virtual community research showcase](#) on July 11, 2024, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. ET. This event will highlight the achievements and progress made by 8 local community organizations taking part in NIH IMPROVE's Connecting the Community for Maternal Health Challenge. The goal of this challenge is to prepare

nonprofit organizations to be competitive applicants for federal funding opportunities as well as to conduct research to improve maternal health outcomes in their communities. Each organization will share their research findings, insights into the state of maternal health in their community, lessons learned throughout their research journey, and next steps and actionable solutions to address these issues. [Registration](#) is free but required.

The IMPROVE Initiative supports research to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths and improve health care for women before, during, and after pregnancy. Rep. Underwood (D-IL-14) and Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1) alongside Sen. Butler (D-CA) and Sen. Britt (R-AL) have [introduced the NIH IMPROVE Act](#) to authorize consistent funding for this program for the next seven years, providing NIH the support and resources to pursue research into the root causes of America's maternal mortality crisis.

## June Community Spotlight

To celebrate Father's Day this month, we wanted to highlight two incredible partners in the maternal health space, the Congressional Dad's Caucus and Save a Rose Foundation. The Congressional Dad's Caucus and Save a Rose Foundation are two organizations dedicated to championing paternal involvement and advocating for the well-being of fathers and their families.

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 Momnibus 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.

Save a Rose Foundation was founded by Michael Anderson after the heartbreaking loss of his daughter Rose due to inadequate healthcare access in 2018. The Foundation advocates for improved healthcare policies, educates about the impact of healthcare disparities on families, provides support to those affected, and approaches family health as a fundamental human rights issue.

Read more about the Congressional Dad's Caucus [here](#) and Save a Rose Foundation [here](#).

Are you or the organization you're working with passionate about maternal health? Send us an email about your work to be featured in our next newsletter!

## Maternal Health 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.

## Maternal Health in the News

- **Journal of Racial and Ethnic Disparities:** [Correlates of and Disparities in Cancellations or Delays of Prenatal Visits During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Emphasis on Racial/Ethnic Minorities and Persons with Low Socioeconomic Status](#)
- **ABC News:** [New study finds most maternal-related deaths in the US happen after birth](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Childbirth deadlier for Americans, especially Black women, study finds](#)
- **Health News Illinois:** [Report Finds Illinois Lawmakers Made Strides in Addressing Perinatal Mental Health](#)
- **Capitol News Illinois:** [Maternal health, abortion protection measures advance as session nears end](#)
- **NC Newsline:** [NC lawmakers, advocates call for action to address crisis in Black maternal health](#)
- **Michigan Advance:** [Michigan bills seek to address racial disparities in maternal health care](#)

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