CDPH
California Department of Public Health

CDPH MCAH Strategy in Action:

Advancing Black Birth Equity Together in California

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing the critical and unique needs of Black families and other marginalized groups across the state with meaningful community collaboration. Building on the foundation of the implications from the Centering Black Mothers report, with ongoing engagement with the Black Birth Equity Statewide Advisory Group (SAG), CDPH has developed the CDPH Black Birth Equity (BBE) Action Plan in partnership with consultants from the California Coalition for Black Birth Justice (the Coalition) and Liberation by Design.

CDPH has synthesized input from Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) team focused conversations, input sessions with the BBE SAG, and a survey (administered to the CDPH steering committee, SAG, MCAH Directors, and PEI/BIH Coordinators) to inform the development of a two-year action plan for the department.

Strategic Action Plan Goals:

The primary aim of the MCAH Black Birth Equity Action Plan is to **strengthen alignment across CDPH to improve the health and well-being of Black mothers, birthing people, and their families through program, policy, systems, and environmental change**. This will be achieved by:

- Assessing the current gaps and opportunities for healthier Black birth outcomes across CDPH programs, starting with CFH MCAH.
- Identifying actionable priorities for CDPH to lead, partner, and fund to advance Black birth equity over the next two years.
- Centering trusted community stakeholder perspectives in the process.
- Measuring successes and supporting case making for sustainable, long-term impact.

Visit the Black Birth Equity webpage for more information and resources.

The objectives selected for this action plan were guided by clear criteria. Specifically, the objectives were chosen because they directly address Black maternal and infant health disparities through program, policy, systems, or environmental change; fall within the CDPH Center for Family Health's sphere of influence; are feasible with current staff capacity and resources; can be achieved within a two-year timeframe; and hold potential for scaling to increase future impact.

CDPH plans to implement the objectives of this action plan using a **lead**, **partner**, **and fund framework**.

As a **lead**, CDPH will focus on strengthening and expanding programs internal to the department, with an emphasis on advancing program, policy, systems, and environmental change.

As a **partner**, CDPH will prioritize meaningful engagement with Black-led and Black-serving organizations, recognizing their critical role in shaping and sustaining community-driven solutions. The department will also initiate and expand collaborative projects with other state departments, agencies, and stakeholders.

As a **funder**, CDPH will support community-based models that improve neighborhood conditions, reduce chronic stress, and expand access to high-quality, respectful health care.

Action Plan Strategies:

1. **Program Adaptation:** Strengthen, refine, and align MCAH programs to provide culturally responsive services to Black mothers, birthing people, and their families. (Lead)
2. **Policy Advancement:** Collaborate across sectors to identify and implement policies that reduce Black birth inequities. (Lead and Partner)
3. **Enhancement of Data Resources:** Partner to innovate and enhance current approaches of illustrating community health, wellbeing, and satisfaction of Black mothers and birthing people served by MCAH programs. (Partner)
4. **Community Collaboration:** Involve Black-led and Black serving organizations and community members with lived experience in authentic, bi-directional, power-sharing to inform program, policy, systems, and environmental change work. (Partner)
5. **Community Innovation Resources:** Fund community-based organizations to implement strategies advancing Healthy Black Birth Outcomes guided by the Centering Black Mothers Report, Coalition Agenda, and other promising practices. (Fund)