

SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) Supported Community-Based Doula Program Addresses Racial Health Disparities

Doulas play a crucial role in combating the discrimination, racism, and loss of autonomy that Black and Brown birthing people experience due to historical disinvestment.

FLPPS is partnering with Healthy Baby Network, HealthConnect One, and Finger Lakes Community Health on a two-year initiative to innovate Healthy Baby Network's Black Doula Collaborative, which will improve the health and well-being of women, infants, and birthing families.

The program will identify and train individuals who are trusted members of the community to provide doula services and help improve: prenatal care, raise breastfeeding rates, decrease unnecessary medical interventions, increase positive birth experiences, and improve parenting skills.

DID YOU KNOW?



INFANT MORTALITY
300% HIGHER

for black babies than for white babies



MATERNAL MORTALITY
51% HIGHER

for black moms than for white moms

Data is for the Rochester and Finger Lakes region according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Medicaid reimbursement legislation in New York would establish doulas as medical providers and require health insurers to provide coverage for doula services.

Train the Trainer

Utilizing HealthConnect One's proven "train the trainer" model, the program based at Healthy Baby Network and Finger Lakes Community Health will hire, onboard, and train doulas, which includes 16 community-based training sessions. FLPPS will fund six full-time equivalent doulas, which will serve 250 Black and Brown women. The program will develop referral pathways with healthcare systems and FQHCs to facilitate care.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has announced two bills in Congress:

- > Passing the Black Maternal Health "Momnibus" Act, which aims to close racial disparities in healthcare for black moms and to diversify the workforce in perinatal health care.
- > Expanding Medicaid coverage to include doulas and midwives for mothers, as well as a year of postpartum coverage.

Partners in this program include



Healthy Baby
Network

