

LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS COVID-19

BREASTFEEDING SAVES LIVES, ESPECIALLY DURING EMERGENCIES.

what is happening in michigan

Black families are **dying** at alarmingly high rates.



Clinical practices and hospital systems are **not centering their needs**.

Governor Whitmer **signed Executive Orders ensuring that a partner and doula may accompany a laboring parent**.



Hospitals are creating their own policies **restricting doula support**, which is dangerous for families, especially Black and Indigenous families.

Families **continue to need lactation support** during the pandemic.



At a time when lactation support is needed the most, there are **reports across the state of lactation support programs at hospitals and health departments being downsized**.

Families are being **separated** unnecessarily.



This separation **limits breastfeeding in the maternity care setting** and **perpetuates centuries long oppression** of Black and Indigenous families.

Michigan WIC **does not have grocery delivery or pick-up options** for participants.



This **creates barriers and unnecessary danger** for already high-risk families to access their food.

BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING SYSTEMS MUST CENTER FAMILIES.

status of services

- Breastfeeding supporters are **forming new doula programs**.
- **Independent IBCLCs are seeing clients** and are available via telehealth and in-person.
- **Doulas are convening** to create collaborative power to dismantle oppressive systems.
- **MIBFN is here as a key collaborator** to support grassroots organizations and partners to meet the needs of families in their communities.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-BASED BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ANSWER.

recommendations



equitably distribute **resources**



center Black and Indigenous families in all covid-19 interventions



streamline **breast pump communication** with insurance, WIC, families and also physically transferring breast pump to families



create **universal birth and breastfeeding standards** that center Black and Indigenous families



establish **family-supportive hospital policies** increasing access to lactation support



solve care access problems for some families due to barriers including no internet access and distrust due to the current and historical exploitation of health information of Black and Indigenous peoples



increase access to **internet and hipaa-compliant telehealth** for lactation support



ensure **collaborative care** across providers and **intentional communication** on who is providing services in each community



equitably **compensate** skilled lactation care



as the pandemic unfolds, continue to provide **accessible opportunities to educate families**, free from financial burden, on breastfeeding and covid-19