

2024

Annual Impact Report

Introduction

a word from the chair

Dear Breastfeeding Advocates,

As I step into the role of Co-Chair for the Michigan Breastfeeding Network (MIBFN), I'm **filled with gratitude, excitement, and so much hope** for what lies ahead. But first, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work we've done together in 2024 as we continued our mission-driven work with focus, heart, and a commitment to systemic change that is essential to dismantling barriers and building stronger support systems for lactating families. As a board member last year, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the passion, dedication, and power of our MIBFN community, and **it's inspiring to think about all we accomplished.**

One of the highlights that stands out for me is the passage of Senate Bill 351, which ensures public access to human milk expression. This victory wouldn't have been possible without the voices of people like you, the MIBFN community, advocates who took action by contacting legislators, sharing your stories, and advocating for a change that impacts so many families. This bill's success vividly illustrates our collective power. **When we unite, mobilize, and support one another, change happens.** Our voices resounded, and together, we made a tangible difference.

Another key moment in 2024 was the re-launch of the MIBFN and Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings. These gatherings provided a much-needed space for lactation supporters from all backgrounds to share their challenges, celebrate their wins, and build connections with one another. It was truly special to witness the diversity and strength of so many, and I'm excited to see these conversations continue in the year ahead. **By continuing to provide a space for these conversations, we ensure that our approach to breastfeeding advocacy is inclusive, responsive, and grounded in the lived experiences of our communities.**

And let's not forget about the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars, a shining example of MIBFN's commitment to equity-centered education. **These webinars continue to be a vital resource not only in Michigan but across the country and even internationally.** It's amazing to see how these educational events have expanded, and I can't wait to see how they grow even more in 2025. (Continued on next page.)

a word from the chair (ctd)

Looking ahead, our mission is clearer than ever: to disrupt and rebuild systems that have not served us well and to push for policies that create lasting, positive change for families. The need for action has never been more urgent, yet I am filled with so much hope. We've accomplished so much, but there is still so much more work to be done. The challenges families face are real, and it's up to all of us to keep pushing for meaningful change. I believe that together, we can continue to advocate for policies that support families and human milk feeding, ensure better access to resources, and create an environment where all families feel supported. These challenges we face, whether in access, equity, or public health crises and beyond, require all of us to come together. As the great Audre Lorde once said, *"Without community, there is no liberation."* **Let's continue to build that community, lifting each other up and ensuring that every family, no matter their background, has access to the resources they need to thrive.** I know MIBFN will remain committed to mobilizing our network, advocating for policy change, and educating those who can help to make a difference.

This year's annual report is a testament to the progress we've made together and the road ahead. But it's not just a reflection of past work: **it's a call to action.** I encourage you to read through this Annual Report and take in all the great work we've done so far. Read the stories, statistics, and testimonies of those whose lives have been impacted by our collective work, but most importantly, I hope it sparks something in you. Whether it's a desire to get more involved, share your story, or advocate for a cause close to your heart. As Marian Wright Edelman said, *"You can't be what you can't see."* **The more we advocate, educate, and lead, the more we inspire others to join in and make change. The work isn't over, and we need you.**

As we enter 2025, I invite each of you to reflect on the power of community, of solidarity, and of action. Whether through policy advocacy, providing direct support to families, or educating others, every effort makes a difference. Together, we can create lasting change for human milk feeding families, and I'm beyond excited to continue this journey with all of you in 2025 and beyond. Thank you for being a part of MIBFN's success and for everything you do to help make Michigan a more human milk-friendly state. Here's to another year of hope, action, and continued progress! **Together, we will continue to make a lasting impact.** Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this important work.

With gratitude and excitement,

Allison Horne

Allison Horne
Co-Chair, Michigan Breastfeeding Network 2025



letter from executive director

Dear Breastfeeding Supporters,

When I spoke recently with one of my mentors, I was lamenting the dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs that the US federal government has operationalized since the 2025 Presidential Inauguration. Her response to me was simple and it has become a guiding light for our team in our march forward in the movement for breastfeeding equity and justice in Michigan: "Our work continues. Sometimes it gets harder, other times it gets easier. And, our work doesn't end, it just changes and we keep going. We are creative, we are resilient, and we keep going."

We keep going.

At MIBFN, we are creative and we are resilient. We keep going. This means we are here for you – and serving in solidarity with you – as you disrupt and rebuild the systems that put human milk feeding out of reach for so many families. We stay focused on increasing access to human milk feeding in solidarity with every Michigan family. That's the core of who we are. We know that's who you are too.

We will keep moving forward, together.

Our organization celebrated many victories in 2024: the expansion of the breastfeeding anti-discrimination law, our partners at Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color establishing a contract with the women's prison to provide milk courier services, our partners at Milk Like Mine expanding their services into a new community, our longtime staff member Jennifer Day being hired as the Executive Director of the United States Breastfeeding Committee, hiring Shonte' Terhune-Smith to manage our education programming from within the MIBFN staff, and so on.

And, our plans for 2025 are big too. We have launched the 45-hour Community Breastfeeding Specialist course, we continue advocating for increased financial support of community-based, equity-centered breastfeeding support programs, and we are once again growing our paid and volunteer teams.

We are also learning to rest. I love the metaphor "this is a marathon, not a sprint". This work is generational. We are doing what we can, while we prepare future generations to pick up and keep the work going long after us. This includes resting, practicing joy, and deepening our bonds with one another.

As you read through the pages of this report, I hope that you can feel our love for you, for each other, and for this movement. I hope the joy of our sisterhood leaps off the pages and fills your heart and your cup. I hope that you are recharged, inspired, and motivated to keep focused on our vision for the movement towards breastfeeding equity and justice in Michigan.

We continue our commitment to be here for you and serving alongside you. **Let's keep going, together.**

In solidarity,

Shannon McKenney-Shubert

Shannon McKenney-Shubert, MPH, CLC
Executive Director, Michigan Breastfeeding Network



living our mission

mission

We advocate, educate, and community-build alongside families and organizations for the advancement of an equitable, just, and breastfeeding-supportive culture.

vision

- We envision human milk feeding-supporters of every identity serving in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized folx, dismantling unjust and inequitable systems of oppression – white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism.
- We envision building new systems that support human lactation centered in equity and justice.
- We envision the decolonization and reclamation of traditional birth, lactation and infant feeding cultural norms.
- We envision Black joy and Indigenous communities thriving.

statement on who we serve

MIBFN collaborates with organizations and individuals to bring about actionable, system-level changes that are centered on the diverse experiences of Michigan families with young children.

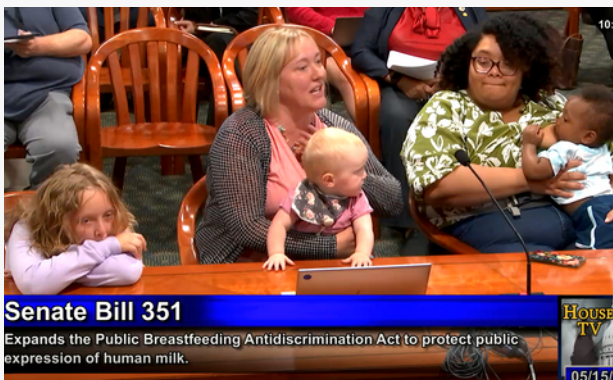
core values

Respect, Diversity, Listening, Learning, Planning, Transparency, and Community-Building

As we reflect on our mission, vision, and values, it is our hope that this report highlights the work we've done to advance breastfeeding equity and justice. Through collaboration, advocacy, and community-centered support, we continue striving toward a future where every family has the systemic support to be centered and supported in their human milk feeding journey.

Accomplishments

passage of michigan sb 351



We are thrilled about the passage of Michigan SB 351, which builds upon the Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act of 2014. While the original law protected a birthing person's right to breastfeed in public, this new legislation extends those protections to include human milk expression (i.e., pumping in public), ensuring even greater support for lactating individuals.

Securing this critical legislation required a dedicated, statewide effort. MIBFN Executive Director Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC, and LactPower Founder Tameka White, CLS, joined our team and lactation supporters from across Michigan in a trip to the Capitol in Lansing, where they provided testimony and advocated directly to legislators on the bill's importance. According to our team, a key strength of this campaign was MIBFN's leadership in mobilizing a powerful groundswell of support—demonstrating the collective power of advocacy in making meaningful change.

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"Simply put, *the tools provided by MIBFN easily transform human milk feeding supporters from care to action*. The script was invaluable for busy moms like myself, never need to think 'what am I going say?' The one-pager was perfect for sharing on socials to invite and inspire others to collective action towards a breastfeeding-supportive culture."

– Tameka White, CLS, CBS, LactPower Founder

To mobilize Local Breastfeeding Supporters across Michigan, MIBFN provided a sample script and legislator contact information, encouraging advocates to take action. Supporters were able to use these tools when reaching out to lawmakers and their collective efforts ultimately influenced the committees' votes.

This campaign became a true grassroots movement, driven by the power of community advocacy. The combination of direct testimony at the Capitol and widespread engagement from Local Breastfeeding Supporters demonstrated the strength of unified action. Michigan SB 351's passage is a testament to what's possible when passionate individuals come together to drive meaningful change towards an equitable, just, and breastfeeding-supportive culture.

We did it!



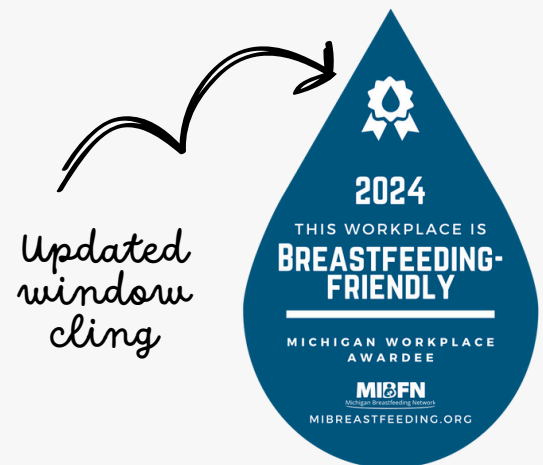
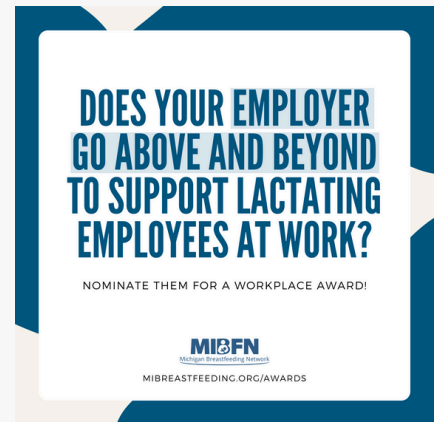
Advocacy Alerts sent to listserv to mobilize Local Breastfeeding Supporters to take action on MI SB 351

revamp of workplace awards

Families are more successful with human milk feeding when they live and work in supportive communities. MIBFN is committed to ensuring that workplaces across the state foster environments where lactating employees feel supported and valued. To strengthen this commitment, we have revamped our Michigan Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Awards to align with the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act and other workplace protections based on guidance and recommendations from Local Breastfeeding Supporters.

This updated program recognizes employers that go beyond basic compliance to actively create a culture of support for lactating employees. Our goal is to help shift workplace policies and norms so that breastfeeding-friendly practices are not only encouraged, but also widely visible and normalized throughout Michigan as more employers, providers, and others realize that they impact breastfeeding rates.

Spread the word in your local community and/or *nominate your employer* for a Workplace Award!



Donation requested per application as part of our commitment to sustainability

relaunch of local breastfeeding supporter meetings



MIBFN is dedicated to fostering collaboration and shared learning among those working to advance breastfeeding support across Michigan. A highlight of our year was relaunching Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings (LBSM), held monthly on the third Thursday from 1-2 PM EST. These meetings bring together Local Breastfeeding Supporters, statewide partners, and our team to share insights, address systemic barriers, and strengthen breastfeeding support. Relunched in February 2024, LBSM is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Obesity Prevention Program via the CDC-SPAN grant.

Attendees who weren't compensated by their employer were eligible for \$100 per meeting attended to ensure that they were equitably compensated for sharing space with us.

107

unique registrants

8

meetings held

31

average monthly participation

"Attending the Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings has been a game-changer for my work in the community. These gatherings not only connect me with others who share the same passion but also provide valuable insights and strategies that help me better support families facing systemic barriers. Every month, I leave feeling more encouraged, informed, and ready to make a difference."

– Taniah Ingram, CBD, CBS, Local Breastfeeding Supporter



august breastfeeding month

August Breastfeeding Month was a time of connection, celebration, and shared support. With the theme *Feeding the Future in Every Drop*, we focused on uplifting the incredible work happening in local communities across Michigan. Thanks to generous sponsorship from Priority Health, Local Breastfeeding Supporters received t-shirts and had the chance to sign up for MIBFN's virtual 5K, with all proceeds going back to Local Breastfeeding Supporter efforts. Our August Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meeting was filled with encouragement as we cheered each other on and made space to share what folx were doing to celebrate August Breastfeeding Month.

In addition, proclamations and social media helped amplify these efforts. Governor Whitmer proclaimed August 2024 as Breastfeeding Month in Michigan and also August 8-14, 2024 as Indigenous Milk Medicine Week in Michigan. And, we kicked off the month with a Facebook Live to read the Breastfeeding Month proclamation. These collective efforts reinforced the power of community, reminding us that when we uplift and support each other, we create lasting change for breastfeeding families across Michigan.

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\$3032.16

earned through August fundraising



great lakes breastfeeding webinars

25,498

continuing education
certificates provided free of
charge to participants

29,637

total enrollments in 2024

7992


unique students in 2024



The Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars provide free, evidence-based education to support practice change and advance racial equity in lactation. Centering the voices of Black and Indigenous lactation supporters, these webinars address systemic barriers while equipping peer counselors, maternity care nurses, and home visitors with practical strategies to foster equitable breastfeeding support. Rooted in our core values—access, evidence, equity, and relevance—these sessions are a vital space for learning, collaboration, and action toward lasting change.

“There was so much that I learned and so much information that validated many of my current thoughts and lifelong experiences. I appreciate this platform of webinars so much. *You have such deep and relatable content.*”

– Webinar participant



drop of knowledge

Safe Sleep: Educating
Lactating Families was
the most popular
2024 webinar by
enrollment.

"The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) collaborates with partners to advance health justice and promote breastfeeding continuity of care and equity in Illinois. IPHI's partnership with the Michigan Breastfeeding Network enabled lactation support professionals to connect to high-quality, culturally-appropriate education and trainings to support workforce development and increase access to human milk supports throughout Illinois."

– Martha-Margaret Cotton, MPH, CLS, IPHI



2024 webinars schedule

Air Date	Title	Presenter
February 27, 2024	Safety in Supplementation - Does it Exist? Informed and Fully Supported is Best	Samirah Muhsin, IBCLC, Doula
April 8, 2024	Pump it Up and Avoid Supplementation: Supporting Exclusively Breastfeeding Families in the Home Birth and Hospital Setting	Nichelle Clark, IBCLC, CBS
April 16, 2024	Safe Sleep: Educating Lactating Families	Panel Discussion: Tameka Jackson-Dyer, BASc, IBCLC, CHW, CLE/S/C; Angelene Love, CLC, BD; Raeanne Madison, MPH; and Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC
May 9, 2024	Documentation for the Lactation Consultation	Sekeita Lewis-Johnson, DNP, FNP-BC, IBCLC
June 27, 2024	Optimizing the Breastfeeding Experience and Preventing Common Challenges for the Infant (through physical manual therapy) with Chiropractic Care	Navpreet Conn, DC
July 29, 2024	A Community-Driven Solution: Mama's Mobile Milk, Breaking Down Barriers to Human Milk Consumption	Angelene Love, BS, Doula, Lactation Supporter
August 29, 2024	Supporting Families With Low Milk Supply	Shonte' Terhune-Smith, BS, IBCLC
October 29, 2024	Mind, Mood, and Milk Feeding: Addressing the Challenges of Feeding When Maternal Mental Health Needs Are Present	Felicia McGee, CHW, BD, MHFA
November 19, 2024	Beyond the Red Tape: Assessment in Private Practice	Erika Dudley, IBCLC, CBS
November 29, 2024	Father Empowerment: Beneficial for Everyone	Reginald Day
December 26	Skin to Skin is Not Universal: Teaching Equity	Raeanne Madison, MPH

power panel

This year, our Power Panel played a key role in guiding the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars, overseeing the entire process from planning to reporting. Comprising six members of our team, the panel ensured that each webinar met the highest standards for continuing education across disciplines, advancing lactation practice in meaningful ways. Their leadership helped shape impactful learning experiences that support real change in breastfeeding education and equity.



Karen Garcia, DO,
IBCLC



Kaitlyn Bowen,
MD, RD, CLC



Shonte' Terhune-
Smith, BS, IBCLC



Tierra Emerson,
LMSW, CCM



Tameka Jackson-
Dyer, BASc,
IBCLC, CHW



Julie Ward-
Weathington, RN

funding partners

We are grateful to offer this series FREE of charge to participants as part of our partnership with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health and Wellness with support provided by Connecticut Department of Health WIC Program, Illinois Department of Public Health, Indiana Department of Public Health, Minnesota Department of Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Tyler Rigg Foundation.



"There was so much that I learned and so much information that validated many of my current thoughts and lifelong experiences. I appreciate this platform of webinars so much. *You have such deep and relatable content.*"

– Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinar Participant

community breastfeeding specialist 45-hour course

In 2024, MIBFN proudly launched the Community Breastfeeding Specialist 45-Hour Course, certifying participants as Community Breastfeeding Specialists. Designed for those committed to providing culturally-responsive care, this course equips learners with practical skills to support Black families and address systemic barriers within healthcare systems. With a focus on real-world application through case studies and interactive learning—rather than traditional exams—the course ensures participants are prepared for both the work and certification requirements. Offered in a flexible virtual format, it provides an accessible pathway for individuals seeking to earn 45 CERPAs while deepening their impact in lactation support.



This course centers equity, community,
interactive learning,
and guidance
in starting your
career as a lactation
professional.

Register now!



does your organization want to be a sponsor for 2025?

Looking ahead to 2025, we invite organizations to join us as sponsors of the 45-Hour Course, helping expand access to culturally responsive lactation education.

Sponsorship supports training for community-based lactation supporters, equipping them with the skills to dismantle barriers and improve breastfeeding outcomes for Black families.

Partner with us to invest in equity-driven education and make a lasting impact in the field of lactation support. Contact us to learn more about sponsorship opportunities!



prospective students have
inquired about scholarships
to take the course

meet the course instructor

Shonte' Terhune-Smith is a dedicated health educator, IBCLC, MIBFN's Community Education Manager, and founder of YOLO Lactation and Doula Services. With over a decade of experience, she has been a tireless advocate for increasing breastfeeding rates and improving birth and postpartum outcomes in Genesee County and is widely considered a thought leader in the field of lactation.

Shonte' is also the creator and MIBFN's current instructor of the Community Breastfeeding Specialist Course, equipping birth and lactation professionals with essential skills. Known for her compassionate and impactful approach, Shonte' is committed to improving the health of families in her community and beyond.



welcome to team member shonte' terhune-smith, ibclc

We are thrilled to welcome Shonte' Terhune-Smith, IBCLC, as MIBFN's Community Education Manager! Shonte' has been an invaluable part of our work as a contractor, and we are excited to have had her officially join our team in 2024. On the MIBFN team, she focuses on our mission-driven areas of community building and education, including the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars and 45-Hour Course. Grateful to serve alongside you, Shonte'!



"One of my favorite things about serving alongside Shonte' is her 'tinkering brain.' Basically, everyone who has met her realizes right away that *Shonte' is one of the most thoughtful and creative people out there.* She's constantly dreaming up new ways to advance the movement for breastfeeding equity and justice. She pushes me to think outside the box, and inside our community, to keep folks engaged, excited, and working together. Nearly everything she dreams up turns out to be exactly what our movement needs in order to propel forward at that moment. *I'm genuinely honored that she decided to join our team and offer her brilliance, expertise, and creativity to each aspect of our work together.*"

– Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC, MIBFN Executive Director

"Serving as the Community Education Manager at MIBFN has allowed me to create space for learning that is grounded in equity, accessibility, and lived experience.

Through the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars, we've been able to highlight diverse voices and provide high-quality, continuing education to thousands of professionals across Michigan and beyond. It's been powerful to see how these sessions have not only supported lactation and birth workers, but also sparked conversations that lead to change in communities. I'm proud of how we've intentionally curated content that uplifts Black and Indigenous communities, challenges harmful narratives, and centers families' needs.

Education is one of our strongest tools for advocacy and change."

- Shonte' Terhune-Smith, BS, IBCLC,
MIBFN Community Education Manager



farewell to team member jennifer day, ibclc

During 2024, we were thrilled to announce that Jennifer Day, IBCLC, MIBFN's Community Building Manager, accepted the role of Executive Director at the United States Breastfeeding Committee. This is an incredible opportunity for Jennifer to continue advancing breastfeeding support on a national level.



Read MIBFN's
Goodbye Message

"You lead with such an open heart. You have challenged me in all the good ways. *It's like stating the obvious to say that the MIBFN we are today is in large part because of the way you model authentic and courageous solidarity* with the families, birth workers, and communities you serve."

– Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC, MIBFN Executive Director
in MIBFN's Goodbye Message to Jennifer Day, IBCLC

“There is a Zulu term that comes to mind when I think of each of you, Sawabona, which means ‘I see you.’ The very essence of the term means many things: I respect you, I value you, I honor you, you are important to me. Those sentiments hold so much weight in my heart. The love I have toward you runs deep and I’m a better person because of you.”

– Jennifer Day, IBCLC, Former MIBFN
Community Building Manager



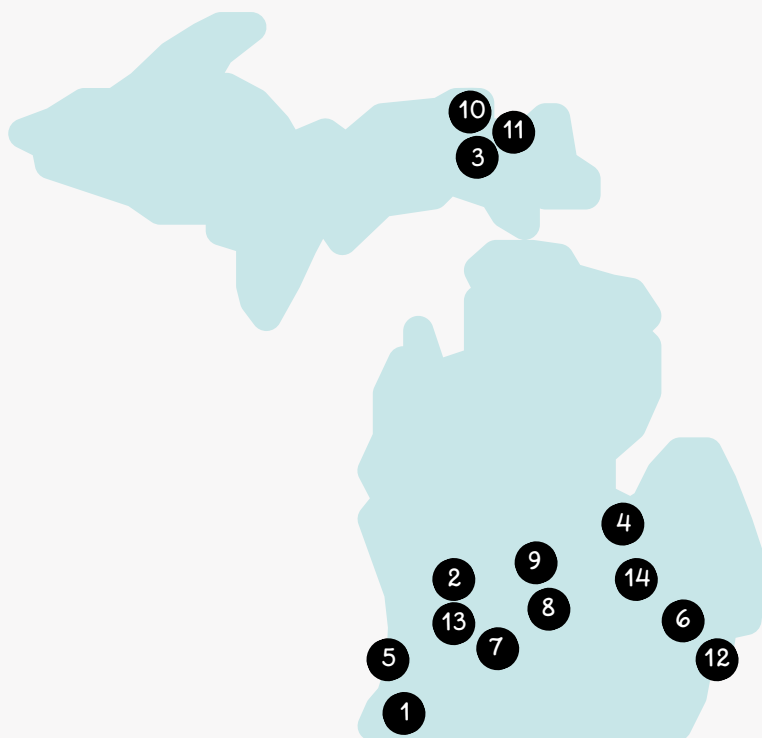
serving alongside community building partners

14

community building partners in 2024

We are committed to building the movement for breastfeeding equity and justice by providing programmatic support, fiscal sponsorship, and strategic guidance to community-based organizations across Michigan. Through serving alongside community building partners, we are working toward the goal of ensuring that every community has identity-based and geographically-based breastfeeding support. Progress is underway, and we continue to fill in the gaps where needed, helping organizations establish sustainability while staying grounded in their own expertise and community needs.

2024 mibfn organizational partners



- 1 Birth Queens and Milk Queens
- 2 Bump to Birth Doula Services
- 3 Chippewa County Breastfeeding Education and Support Team (BEST)
- 4 Full Circle Doula Services
- 5 LactPower
- 6 Learn, Lactate, Grow
- 7 Milk Like Mine
- 8 Next Generation Family Services
- 9 North Star Birthing Services
- 10 Panoramic Doula
- 11 Postpartum Healing Lodge/Nourishing Nations
- 12 Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color
- 13 Strong Beginnings/Corewell Health
- 14 YOLO Lactation and Doula Services

Statewide: Sacred Waters Collective

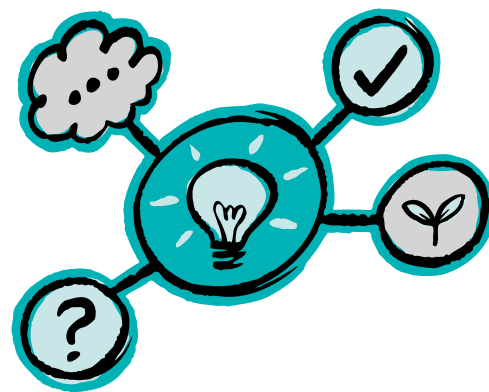
drop of knowledge

Did you know that MIBFN leverages
our 1.2 million dollar budget
to return the power to local
organizations?

Do you have a small organization
and are interested in partnering on
fund development or fiscal
sponsorship?
Reach out today!

fiscal sponsorship

Growing our budget is about more than just expansion – it's about impact. By increasing our financial capacity, we create opportunities for smaller, community-based organizations to leverage larger funding awards, ensuring that resources reach those doing the most critical work on the ground. A stronger budget allows us to provide fiscal sponsorship, programmatic support, and infrastructure that smaller organizations need to thrive. Investing in equity-centered, community-led programs is the most effective way to advance breastfeeding support, and sustainable funding ensures that these efforts remain rooted in the needs and expertise of the communities they serve.



Interested in MIBFN serving as your organization's fiscal sponsor? Reach out today!

2024 fiscal sponsorships

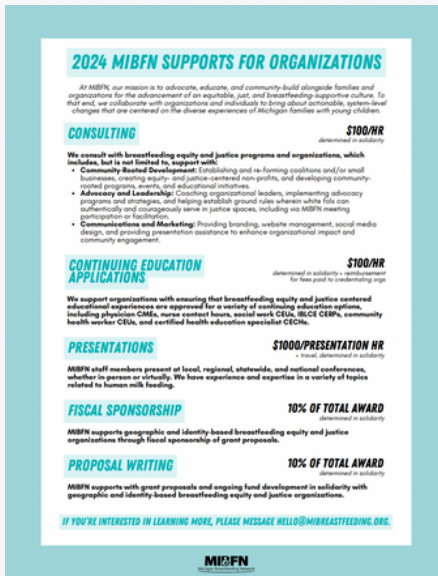
Maternal and Infant Health Initiative with YOLO awarded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund

UP Perinatal Mini-Grant with Superior Lactation awarded by Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions

YOLO Community Impact Project awarded by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Diversity in Breastfeeding Education Program with YOLO awarded by Community Foundation of Greater Flint

expanded service offerings



Behind the scenes, MIBFN has been working to expand our support for community partners by updating our public-facing bios. By highlighting our individual and team skills, we hope to provide greater clarity on how each of us can serve alongside Local Breastfeeding Supporters. This effort not only strengthens connections, but also ensures that our partners know exactly how to collaborate with us to advance breastfeeding equity in their communities.

Want to work together? Us too.
Reach out today!

services offered:

consulting

continuing ed
apps

presentations

fiscal
sponsorship

proposal
writing

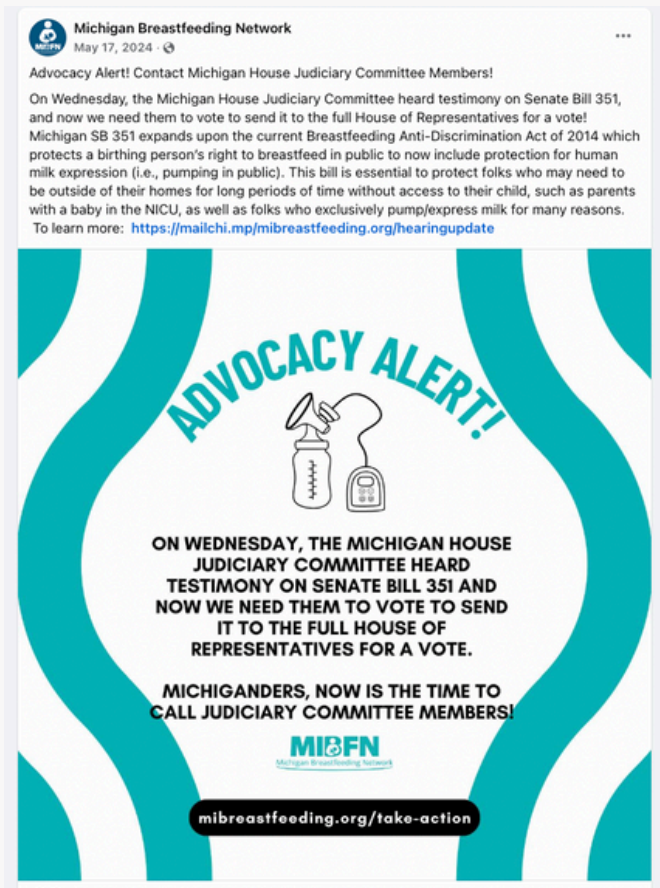
"MIBFN balances several important roles – provider of professional development opportunities, convener, statewide advocate and supporter of local, community-led work to support breastfeeding families. At the community level, serving as a fiscal sponsor for BIPOC led organizations has proven to be a meaningful part of their equity strategy. I have seen a genuine commitment from the team over the years to thought partnership, mentorship and most importantly sharing power all in the service of better outcomes for children and families. The relationships are reciprocal. MIBFN has been pushed in the best ways to grow and think deeply about how they live their values as a result of those partnerships."

– Marijata Daniel-Echols, PhD, MPP, Senior Program Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation



leveraging social marketing for the passage of michigan sb 351

MIBFN harnessed the power of social media and our listserv to mobilize community support for the passage of Michigan SB 351. Through strategic advocacy, we strived to provide accessible tools for individuals to contact legislators, raise their voices, and advocate for policies that support lactating families. We are grateful to have played a role in connecting Local Breastfeeding Supporters with opportunities to take action and make their voices heard.



The rallying advocacy of Local Breastfeeding Supporters was vital in getting this bill signed into law by Governor Whitmer.

decentering whiteness in data gathering and reporting



This year, we have continued our commitment to equity by reshaping how data is collected, interpreted, and shared. By challenging traditional reporting structures, we hope to contribute to a more just and representative data landscape. Our goal is to ensure that data serves as a tool for returning power to folx rather than exclusion, amplifying the voices and lived experiences of those who have been historically marginalized.

listening sessions and co-owned reports

We continued taking intentional steps to disrupt traditional, top-down approaches to data collection and reporting by prioritizing community voices and lived experiences. Through community-building listening sessions, we worked to intentionally hold space for those historically excluded from data narratives—Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color—to share their experiences and stories from during the grant period so that the reports could be shaped together. These sessions were not just about gathering information, but about building relationships, trust, and collective ownership over how data is used to co-create a meaningful report that is also helpful to them and the work they do in community.

We strive to encourage others to consider new approaches to reporting and data, guided by our goal to decenter whiteness in data gathering and reporting.

Organizational
Partnerships

organizational partnerships

We are deeply grateful for the strong organizational partnerships that continue to drive our mission forward in support of birthing and breastfeeding families. These collaborations foster a unified network of advocates and changemakers, working together to ensure families have access to the resources, support, and systems they need. Through shared commitment and collective action, we strengthen the foundation for a more just, equitable, and breastfeeding-supportive culture.

we are so grateful for continued partnership with:



"My time with MIBFN was an incredibly meaningful experience that deepened my understanding of public health through an equity lens. I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by incarcerated individuals who give birth, especially around the right to be with their babies. Learning about prison nursery programs opened my eyes to how systems often fail families in these situations. I also came to see how infant feeding, including breastfeeding, is deeply connected to broader issues of racism and systemic oppression, something that's often overlooked.

MIBFN's commitment to advancing health equity and centering marginalized voices has left a lasting impact on me,

and I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their mission and grow as a public health advocate."

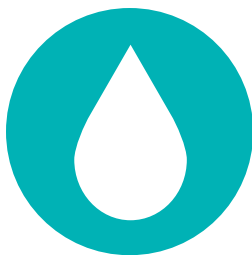
-Sadia Sultana, Wayne State University Student



educational partnerships

We are committed to building the public health workforce by fostering the next generation of leaders dedicated to breastfeeding equity and justice at Michigan's public universities. Through education, mentorship, and strategic partnerships, we are expanding the movement to ensure sustainable, community-driven solutions that support lactating families. This past year, we partnered with students at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Schools of Public Health.

2024 interns



Aichatou Ba

Focus:
Incarceration



Natalie Conn

Focus:
Non-Profit Fund
Development



Kayla Guzmán

Focus:
Non-Profit
Grant Making



L. Esther Hibbs

Focus:
Non-Profit
Grant Making



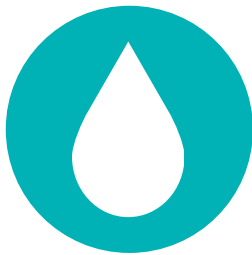
Hannah Light

Focus:
Mental Health



Nicol Morel

Focus:
Water Protection



Nahiely Reza

Focus:
Non-Profit
Grant Making



Sadia Sultana

Focus:
Incarceration



Dhanu Thiyag, MD, MPH

Focus:
Non-Profit
Grant Making

A hand-drawn, irregular black oval border that encircles the word "Financials".

Financials

financials

Human milk is life-saving and life-changing. Backed by the World Health Organization and many others, it plays a critical role in the health and well-being of families everywhere. Yet, despite its proven impact, long-term investment in human milk feeding remains a challenge. That's why we're passionate about the work we do—because every step forward is a step toward a more just, equitable, and breastfeeding-friendly world. We hope our efforts reflect thoughtful stewardship of your support, always grounded in our mission and vision for healthier families and stronger communities.

income
\$1,084,767.17
expenses
\$1,113,916.22

MIBFN expenses included investment in advancing statewide efforts through policy advocacy, lactation education, community building programs, and organizational operations.

\$411,112.39

investment disbursed directly to local breastfeeding organizations and supporters to fund their efforts within their own communities

Long-term investment in human milk feeding remains a challenge.

That's why we're passionate about the work we do.

2024 donors

FOUNDATIONS:

- Binda Foundation
- Bronson Health Foundation
- Community Foundation of Greater Flint
- Ethel & James Flinn Foundation
- Michigan Health Endowment Fund
- Tyler Rigg Foundation
- United Way of South Central Michigan
- Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

- Connecticut Department of Health
- Illinois Public Health Institute
- Indiana Department of Public Health
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Wisconsin Department of Health

HEALTH PLANS:

- Priority Health
- Blue Cross Complete

INDIVIDUALS – MONTHLY INVESTORS:

- Bonita A.
- Angela C.
- Lauren C.
- Jennifer D.
- Lonias G.
- Zaje H.
- Julie J.

INDIVIDUALS – MONTHLY INVESTORS (CTD):

- Caty J. (Mother Heart Birth Services)
- Raeanne M.
- Susan M.
- Shannon M.
- Jessie M.
- Julie O.
- Cierra P.
- Maraiah P.
- Cara P.
- Lisa S.
- Jennifer T.
- Emily U.

INDIVIDUALS – ONE TIME DONORS:

- Denise B.
- Amanda G.
- Jodi H.
- Pamela H.
- Timothy H.
- Dhanalakshmi R.

Donate today!



We are so grateful for
you supporting our work
to build a more
just, equitable, and
breastfeeding-
supportive culture.

drop of knowledge

Your generous donation can help us
build a more just, equitable,
and breastfeeding-
supportive culture.

Are you in?
Give today!

The Work Continues

looking ahead

As we move forward, our commitment to building a more just, equitable, and breastfeeding-supportive culture only grows stronger.

launch community breastfeeding specialist 45-hour course

In 2025, we're excited to bring the Community Breastfeeding Specialist 45-Hour Course to life within MIBFN programming. After focusing on recruitment and marketing in 2024, this equity-centered course will go live, offering interactive learning and practical skills to help participants support Black families and dismantle systemic breastfeeding barriers.



creating spaces for collaboration with local breastfeeding supporters

In 2025, we will focus on creating space for collaboration amongst breastfeeding support group facilitators and direct breastfeeding support providers serving high-needs populations. Together, we hope to amplify resources, foster collaboration, and enhance the support systems available to families facing the greatest challenges.

increase awareness of the expanded breastfeeding anti-discrimination law

In 2025, we'll focus on increasing awareness of Michigan SB 351, ensuring more families and communities understand their rights and protections. By spreading knowledge and fostering advocacy, we hope to create a more supportive environment for lactating parents everywhere.



continue growing budget + capacity to serve alongside local orgs

In 2025, we will continue expanding our budget and capacity, strengthening partnerships with local organizations to better serve communities. By building more resources and support, we hope to deepen our impact of this life-saving work.



join the movement.



Breastfeeding benefits everyone.

Beyond the well-known benefits of human milk for both parents and children, breastfeeding is nourishment, medicine, and comfort. Unfortunately, our current systems, policies, and norms make it extremely difficult for families to achieve their breastfeeding goals.

Breastfeeding benefits everyone, so we need everyone, from every walk of life and every community, to invest in this work of building breastfeeding-supportive systems throughout Michigan.

We are part of a movement toward a more just, equitable, and breastfeeding-supportive culture, and we are stronger together. We need YOU to join the movement. This mission and this movement matter, and your contribution will make a difference. Thank you!



give at mibreastfeeding.org/invest.

MIBFN
Michigan Breastfeeding Network