

# STATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION GRANT (SPAN)

YEAR 2 GRANT REPORT



MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG





## OVERVIEW

In Year 2 of this SPAN grant, Michigan Breastfeeding Network (MIBFN) advanced statewide efforts to ensure continuity of care for breastfeeding families through equity-centered, community-informed strategies. Building on the foundation of relationship and trust established in Year 1, MIBFN deepened collaboration with Local Breastfeeding Supporters across Michigan - centering their expertise, compensating their contributions, and amplifying their guidance to shape policy and practice.

This year's work also included aligning the Workplace Award Program with the federal PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act and advancing a breastfeeding-supportive policy agenda that strengthens protections for families and workplaces. Looking ahead, MiBFN remains committed to sustaining community-led solutions and statewide partnerships that ensure every family in Michigan has access to the care and support needed to reach their human milk feeding goals.



## FAST FACTS



### FUNDING PARTNER


Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Obesity Prevention Program via the CDC-SPAN grant

### PROJECT TIMELINE

October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

### AMOUNT

\$60,477



# MIBFN & LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS

MIBFN remains dedicated to fostering collaboration and shared learning among those advancing breastfeeding support across Michigan. In Year 2, the Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings (LBSM) continued to serve as a cornerstone of this work - bringing together Local Breastfeeding Supporters, statewide partners, and MIBFN staff each month for meaningful conversation and collective action.

Throughout the year, participants shared insights on sustaining community-based support, strengthening local coalitions, and addressing barriers through advocacy and collaboration. These gatherings have not only deepened statewide connections but also affirmed the importance of compensating local expertise and uplifting community-driven solutions. Together, we strive to ensure that LBSM - and every breastfeeding space - remains inclusive, brave, and responsive to the families and supporters most impacted by systemic barriers.

## FAST FACTS

**\$14,800**

compensation provided to attendees

**35**

average monthly participation

**105**

unique attendees

**11**

meetings

**MIBFN PROVIDES \$100 PER MEETING TO LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS WHO ARE NOT COMPENSATED BY THEIR EMPLOYER. THIS ENSURES THAT COMMUNITY EXPERTISE IS VALUED AND RECOGNIZED, REFLECTING OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, ADVOCACY, AND INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING.**

**“I JOIN THE MEETINGS TO LEARN  
NEW INFORMATION AND TO LISTEN  
TO THE STORIES OF OTHERS IN  
THE COMMUNITY... I ALSO WANT  
TO HELP MY COMMUNITY AS I  
GROW AS WELL.”**

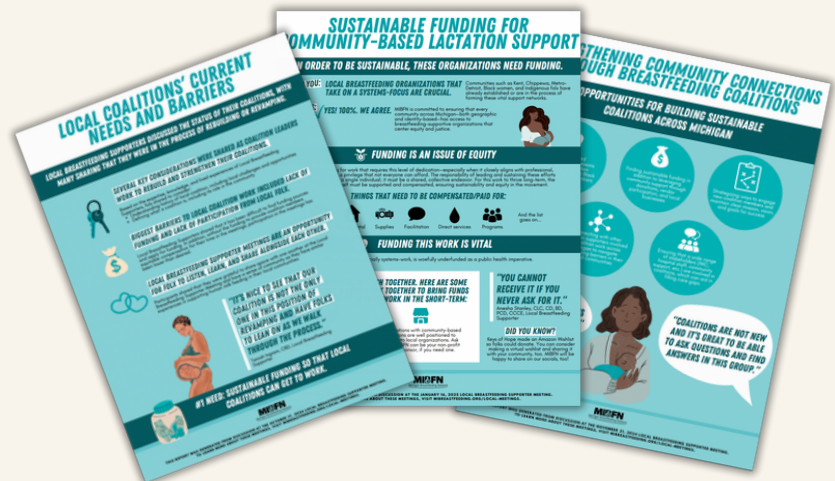
Anonymous, Local Breastfeeding Supporter

# GUIDANCE FROM LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS

Each month, MIBFN compiles a co-owned, digestible report that captures key themes, insights, and recommendations shared during Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings. These reports serve as both guidance and accountability tools, helping shape MIBFN's priorities and ensuring that community voices directly inform statewide strategies. By documenting and uplifting the expertise of Local Breastfeeding Supporters, we continue to align our work with the real-time needs, barriers, and opportunities identified by those most connected to families and local systems of care.

## COMMUNITY BREASTFEEDING COALITIONS

Throughout the year, Local Breastfeeding Supporters identified both the **needs and barriers facing community breastfeeding coalitions** and shared **strategies for strengthening connections, collaboration, and sustainability**. Discussions emphasized the **importance of networking across regions** and building **long-term financial support** to sustain coalition-led breastfeeding initiatives.





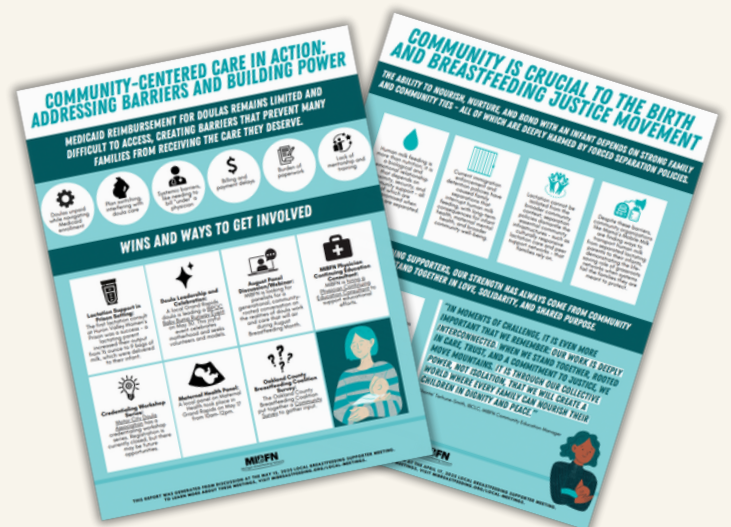
## COMMUNITY BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUPS

Local Breastfeeding Supporters highlighted how **community-led support groups form the foundation of breastfeeding infrastructure**, fostering connection, trust, and sustained support for families.



## COMMUNITY BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT SERVICES

Local Breastfeeding Supporters emphasized that **addressing barriers and building power** is central to effective breastfeeding support, and that **community engagement is crucial** to advancing the birth and breastfeeding justice movement.



**“I KEEP MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE IN THIS SPACE BY MAKING ROOM FOR OTHERS TO SPEAK AND SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES, WHILE ALSO SPEAKING HONESTLY FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCES.”**

Taniah Ingram, CBS, Doula, Local Breastfeeding Supporter



## CELEBRATING AND AMPLIFYING THIS WORK

Through monthly Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings, MIBFN highlighted themes of **community support, leadership, resilience, and liberation**, celebrating the contributions of local breastfeeding supporters while fostering connection, learning, and collective growth across communities.



**MIBFN IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS FOR GENEROUSLY SHARING THEIR TIME, EXPERTISE, AND INSIGHTS DURING THE MEETINGS. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO SHAPING STATEWIDE STRATEGIES AND ENSURING THAT OUR WORK REFLECTS THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.**

# AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO 2026 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS

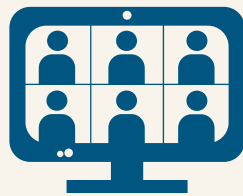
We plan to focus on:



Bringing together and facilitating a high needs cohort



Convening a working group for breastfeeding support group facilitators



Continuing the Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings



Advocating and celebrating for August Breastfeeding Month

**“IN MOMENTS OF CHALLENGE, IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE REMEMBER: **OUR WORK IS DEEPLY INTERCONNECTED.** WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER, ROOTED IN CARE, TRUST, AND A COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, WE MOVE MOUNTAINS. IT IS THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE POWER, NOT ISOLATION, THAT WE WILL CREATE A WORLD WHERE EVERY FAMILY CAN NOURISH THEIR CHILDREN IN DIGNITY AND PEACE.”**

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

**“THESE MEETINGS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT IN A WAY THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO SHOW UP AUTHENTICALLY AS THEMSELVES AND IT IS A WAY TO ELIMINATE SILOS.”**

Kiara Baskin, CD, CLC, CHW, Local  
Breastfeeding Supporter

# EDUCATING AND ENGAGING LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS ABOUT NEW LAWS AND POLICIES

MIBFN strengthened understanding and advocacy around policies that impact breastfeeding families by sharing updates on new workplace protections, promoting statewide breastfeeding policy priorities, and developing practical tools to support implementation. These efforts help build the laws and culture families need to reach their human milk feeding goals.



## PUBLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF MIBFN'S BREASTFEEDING POLICY PRIORITIES

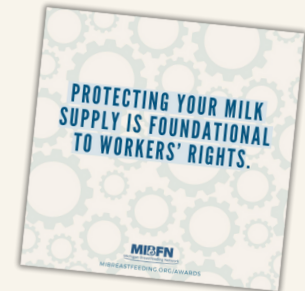
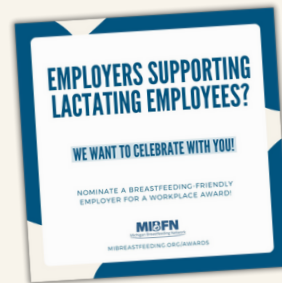
MIBFN published and amplified its [2025 Breastfeeding Policy Priorities](#), outlining key strategies to **build systems and environments that make it feasible for every family to meet their human milk feeding goals**. This framework guides partners, policymakers, and advocates in advancing equitable protections and creating the structural change needed for breastfeeding success across Michigan.





## EDUCATION AND PROMOTION AROUND PUMP AND PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

MIBFN educated partners and Local Breastfeeding Supporters on recent changes to workplace protections through the **PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act** and the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**. Through outreach and [social media](#), we shared practical guidance and recognition tools - like the **updated Workplace Award Program** - to help employers and advocates understand and implement these important laws.



## CREATION OF “BIG THREE” CAMPAIGN ALONGSIDE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SPH STUDENT

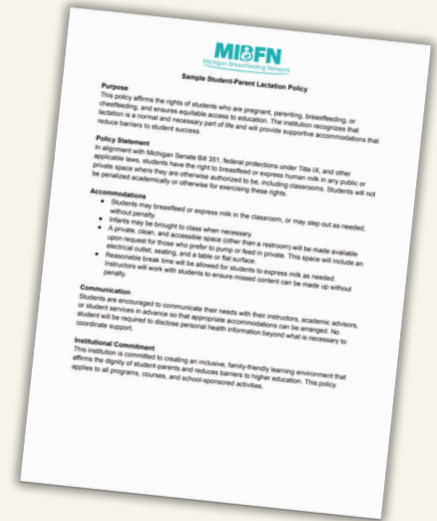
MIBFN worked alongside Wayne State University School of Public Health Student Bianca Jennings to create [“The Big Three” campaign](#). The purpose of this campaign is to **inform employees, students, and employers when, where, and why to utilize Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA), and the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act**. This information protects women in a broad range of reproductive and breastfeeding measures.





## DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF NEW MIBFN ADVOCACY TOOL

MIBFN developed and published a [Sample Student-Parent Lactation Policy tool](#) to help schools, universities, and training programs implement policies that support breastfeeding students in classroom and clinical settings. This resource provides practical guidance for educators and administrators, making it easier to create environments where every student can meet their human milk feeding goals.



## DESIGN AND OUTREACH AROUND EXPANSION OF THE BREASTFEEDING ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT

MIBFN collaborated with Grand Rapids Black artist [Pretty In Ink Press](#) to create a [new illustration](#) supporting the expansion of the [Breastfeeding Anti-Discrimination Act](#). This artwork is featured in an outreach campaign and a forthcoming Etsy store, helping to raise awareness and visually amplify the importance of breastfeeding protections.



**“FROM WORKING WITH THE MIBFN, I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION, EDUCATION, AND NETWORKING IN FIGHTING FOR A CENTRAL CAUSE. INTERACTING IN A TEAM SO PASSIONATE ABOUT JUSTICE, ESPECIALLY FOR BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES, HAS ALLOWED ME TO SEE THIS IN ACTION. I HOPE TO TAKE WHAT I HAVE LEARNED AND IMPLEMENT THIS SHARED PASSION INTO MY FUTURE WORK AS A BIRTH AND POSTPARTUM DOULA.”**

Bianca Jennings, MIBFN Intern, Wayne State University