



APRIL 11-17
**BLACK
MATERNAL
HEALTH WEEK**
"Our Bodies Still
Belong to Us:
Reproductive
Justice Now!"
JOIN US!
bmiw.org/bmhw

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

To be a catalyst to improve well-being and prosperity in the Black community with sustained efforts to improve Black Maternal and Child Health outcomes, effectively unite and elevate the Black voice, and build sustainable infrastructure to strengthen Black capacity.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

We welcomed **318 attendees** to our one-of-a-kind Black Maternal Health Exhibit, encompassing various themes including the celebration of Black joy and autonomy.

Attendees had the opportunity to explore the history of Black birthwork and reproductive health, visiting the "All My Babies" historic film exhibit and the Black Reproductive Health Justice Timeline. We were **honored to share stories illustrating real birth experiences** from Central Valley women. We also showcased representative scientific illustrations, and held live simulations with our High-Fidelity Birthing Simulator, Olivia.

Regardless of the wind and rain, our **Jubilee brought out 350 people!** There was a lot of learning, eating, celebrating, and BIG GIVEAWAYS. We distributed strollers, cribs, electric breast pumps, breastfeeding supplies and MORE. We are thrilled to have served so many pregnant mamas! The event also featured amazing public health vendors who provided education and informational materials.

At the Black Maternal Health Symposium, we were **honored to highlight stories from Candice and Tatiana**. They shared how receiving support from Ta-She-Ra, Doula and BIH Program Coordinator, positively impacted their pregnancy and postpartum experiences.

The **symposium's program highlighted efforts to improve maternal and infant health outcomes** by key stakeholders such as Presenting Sponsor Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal, Voices for Birth Justice Fresno, CMQCC/Stanford, Saint Agnes Medical Center, Community Regional Medical Center, Kaiser, and our guest of honor, California Surgeon General Dr. Diana Ramos.

We awarded 4 doulas, Starr Gaines-Glynn, Christie Love, Danielle Cobb, and Ta-She-Ra Manning with their BDN doula certifications! This marks a significant milestone in their journey to support Black mamas and their families.

Black Maternal Health Week continues to serve as a catalyst, guiding BWPC's year-round efforts in policy advocacy, education, and community power-building.



PROGRAM UPDATES



BACKPACK GIVEBACK & FALL FOR HEALTH

In addition to BMHW, we hosted two free community resource events: a Backpack Giveback event, where we distributed 200 free backpacks filled with school supplies, and a Fall for Health Community Event, which provided health education and resources to families in West Fresno. Thanks to Saint Rest Baptist Church for hosting us every year!





BLACK INFANT HEALTH SATELLITE PROGRAM

This year, we completed the final cohort of our Black Infant Health (BIH) satellite program, supporting over 60 pregnant Black mothers and birthing persons with prenatal and postpartum care. While the program at BWPC has ended, many participants are still actively involved with our other events and programs.

BWPC CARE COORDINATION EXPANSION

In August, the African American Coalition (AAC) celebrated its first anniversary as a program under BWPC, bringing with it two key partnerships: Fresno County's Health Disparities (HD) Program and Fresno HOPE Pathways Community HUB (FCHIP). Funding from these partnerships enables our team of Community Health Advocates to assist families in accessing housing, healthcare, and other essential resources. In December, BWPC was recognized as FCHIP's Care Coordination Agency of the Year honoring our team's dedication and commitment to supporting the community.



GROWTH FOR THE BLACK DOULA NETWORK

We also saw progress with our BLACK Doula Network (BDN). Thanks to our partnership with Community Health System, our doula trainees completed 150 hospital observation hours! Four doulas were certified during BMHW, and three more doulas will be certified in 2025.

VOTE FOR YOUR HEALTH

Campaign

Our Your Vote, Your Voice, Your Health Campaign reached 1,545 community members and our team distributed 4,141 education materials!

Throughout the campaign from June to November 2024, we trained and mobilized our doulas and CHWs to engage directly with community members. The campaign emphasized the crucial connection between voting and improving health outcomes, especially in areas severely impacted by structural racism and health disparities.

The American Medical Association acknowledges that voting is a Social Determinant of Health. By sharing relevant data on health outcomes, education resources, and information about voting registration, we help communities take the future of their health into their own hands.

Check out our landing page and find resources:
blackwpc.org/your-vote-our-health-their-future



STRONG START & BEYOND

Partnership

In 2024 BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC) partnered with the California Surgeon General in support of the Strong Start & Beyond campaign. This groundbreaking movement, launched by California Surgeon General Dr. Diana E. Ramos, with the support of First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Christopher Carey, General Manager of Calm Health, and Secretary Xavier Becerra, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, aims to reduce California's maternal mortality rate 50% by December 2026 through enhanced awareness, access to resources, and community engagement.

BWPC's commitment goes beyond raising awareness, with a focus on implementing culturally congruent system improvements and fostering power-sharing with Black women throughout their reproductive journeys.



Shantay R. Davies-Balch with Xavier Becerra United States Secretary of Health & Human Services

BWPC's efforts include education, advocacy, and research collaborations with institutions such as Stanford University, alongside community-driven initiatives aimed at reducing health disparities in maternal and infant care. By leveraging partnerships and encouraging active participation in health decisions, BWPC continues to drive systemic improvements that benefit not only the Central Valley but also the wider population of California.

As California's maternal mortality rates remain disproportionately high among Black mothers, Strong Start & Beyond is a necessary movement to help close the gap, save lives, and create lasting change. As dedicated partners, BWPC remains committed to ensuring that no Black mother or baby dies from preventable causes.

Learn about this campaign:
osg.ca.gov/strong-start-beyond/



Shantay R. Davies-Balch with Dr. Diana Ramos, CA Surgeon General

FINANCIALS

2024

	2024	2023
REVENUE Total Revenue	\$2,381,332	\$1,637,950
EXPENSES Total Expenses	\$2,505,132	\$2,074,045
NET ASSETS Total Net Assets	\$1,124,290	\$928,062



FUNDRAISING

Wins

FUNDING WINS: A HISTORIC YEAR FOR BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY

In 2024, BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center achieved a record-breaking milestone, securing \$4.91 million in funding across more than 30 grants. These investments strengthen our programs, expand our reach, and build long-term sustainability.

MAJOR MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS

- First 5 Fresno County – \$700,000 (2024–2027)
Expanding Glow! Group Prenatal Care and group care support models.
- Packard Foundation – \$350,000 (2024–2026)
Providing essential general operating support.
- California Wellness Foundation – \$300,000 (2024–2026)
Advancing core operations to improve Black maternal and infant health outcomes.
- The California Endowment – \$470,000 (2024–2028)
Centering Community Voices in Health Systems Transformation.

PROGRAMMATIC INNOVATION

- Behavioral Health Integration (County of Fresno) – \$45,000
Training doulas in behavioral health curriculum.
- Black Doula Network (The Campbell Foundation) – \$25,000
Expanding culturally affirming care for Black birthing persons.
- MPOX CBO Grant (CDPH) – \$55,000
Vaccine outreach and education for at-risk communities.

INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Building Acquisition (The Campbell Foundation) – \$100,000
Securing space for long-term growth.
- Technology & Systems Upgrade (The Campbell Foundation) – \$25,000
Enhancing HR systems, EHR transition, and cybersecurity.
- \$25,000 Your Medi-Cal Project (Kaiser Permanente)
ensures families maintain critical coverage and access to care.

ADVOCACY & EQUITY LEADERSHIP

- Organizing and Power-Sharing with BIPOC Communities (The California Endowment) – \$170,000
Driving policy and equity initiatives in Fresno County and supports leadership development, advocacy, and systems change for racial equity.
- \$130,000 INCHESS Initiative (Central Valley Community Foundation) brings together grassroots partners to shift Fresno's social and economic narratives.

STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE

BWPC continues to grow a resilient, skilled maternal health workforce:

Doula Expansion: Funded by Packard Foundation and County of Fresno, advancing professional development and behavioral health training.

BLACK Doula Network (Campbell Foundation) promotes equity by supporting local doulas serving Black birthing people.

PARTNERSHIP POWER

Our growth reflects trust and collaboration with funders who share our vision and impact: First 5 Fresno County, County of Fresno, Kaiser Permanente, Packard Foundation, The California Endowment, Central Valley Community Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation, Flora Family Foundation, Campbell Foundation, and others.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center is proud to reflect on a year of meaningful progress and strengthened partnerships. Our programs and initiatives—from advancing the BLACK Doula Network and expanding care coordination through the African American Coalition, to collaborating with statewide and academic partners—demonstrate our continued commitment to addressing the systemic barriers that contribute to health disparities. Each effort reflects our mission to ensure that every birthing person and family has access to equitable, high-quality care and the resources necessary for long-term wellness.

Looking ahead, BWPC remains steadfast in its dedication to building sustainable systems of support that advance maternal and infant health equity.

We will continue to expand our reach through the development of a birthing center, training and certifying additional doulas, and enhancing access to community-based care. These efforts, supported by our partners and community members, will help create a healthier, more resilient future for all families in the Central Valley.



Alyssa, Breastfeeding & Lactation Support Client



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