

2022-2023 BIRTH JUSTICE STRATEGY

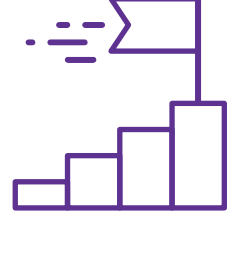
I Be Black Girl (IBBG) serves as a collective for Black women, femmes and girls to actualize their full potential to authentically be, through autonomy, abundance and liberation.

The Birth Justice initiative works alongside various organizations and partners across the full spectrum of maternal and reproductive health at the local, state, and national level.



OUR VISION

To expand access and resources to quality and culturally relevant maternal health services through policy, research, and organizing while amplifying the voices and experiences of Black women and birthing people.



OUR GOAL

- No Black mama or birthing person will be faced with the fear that their race dictates the quality of care and information they receive
- Ensuring Black women and birthing folks don't just live through their birthing experience, but actually thrive

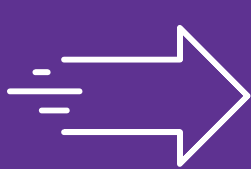
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Black women and birthing folks in the United States experience unacceptably poor maternal health outcomes, **including disproportionately high rates of death and near death experiences related to pregnancy or childbirth.**

Black women experience "weathering," meaning our bodies experience physical harm due to exposure to chronic stress linked to socioeconomic inequities, discrimination and racism over the life span, **making pregnancy riskier at an earlier age.**

Black women are 3-4x more likely to die during or after delivery than are white women.

The top leading causes of death for Black women when pregnant or giving birth are "other" heart conditions and blood clots, all preventable causes.



HOW WE MOVE FORWARD

Using a [Collective Action Framework](#), I Be Black Girl is catalyzing a movement to disrupt the systems that perpetuate incidence of maternal morbidity, mortality and traumatic care experiences using strategies that center the voices, experiences, and leadership of Black women and Black birthing people.



OUR APPROACH

Creating transformational system change will require a comprehensive approach that addresses Black maternal health across the life course. IBBG works with various partners across Nebraska to address the inequities, trauma and violence within the maternal health sector.



OUR PRIORITIES

- Expand access to culturally relevant and trusted providers, community-based care and various kinds of birth workers
- Expand access and resources to quality, patient-centered comprehensive reproductive and obstetric health care
- Expand policy including paid family and medical leave, postpartum coverage and bias training for medical practitioners
- Address the pay inequity for Black women and femmes in the workforce
- Collect and disaggregate maternal and reproductive health data by race and gender

2022-2023 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1  **Data, Research and Learning**

2  **Community Organizing and Power Building**

3  **Coalition Building and Convenings**

4  **Policy and Advocacy**

PRIORITY ONE



DATA, RESEARCH AND LEARNING

IBBG is committed to enhancing the collection and utilization of disaggregated, community-centered data to drive action to address racial disparities in pregnancy and maternal health outcomes in Nebraska.

ACTIVITIES

- › Create and release a landscape analysis and ecosystem reports
- › Build organizational capacity and learning for health systems
- › Support individual capacity building and learning for traditional health care providers

PRIORITY TWO



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & POWER BUILDING

IBBG works to support Black political power and will through elevating the stories, experiences and leadership of Black women and birthing people to build a movement truly rooted in community.

ACTIVITIES

- › Build toolkits to support the engagement and activation of Black birthing people in this movement
- › Launch birth worker access fund

PRIORITY THREE



COALITION BUILDING AND CONVENINGS

IBBG works at the system level to build a network of partners to reimagine maternal and reproductive care for Black women and birthing folks.

ACTIVITIES

- › Convene Nebraska Black Maternal Health Week and Month
- › Convene Black Maternal Health Coalition
- › Convene Nebraska Black Birthworker Coalition
- › Build and launch doula training pipeline program

PRIORITY FOUR



POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Policy is one lever of change used within the IBBG approach to advance our mission. We recognize that policy has been weaponized against Black communities while also recognizing that building Black political power that centers Black women, femmes and girls is necessary to create change.

ACTIVITIES

- › Build community based efforts to advance policy at the state level
- › Launch toolkits that create accessible avenues into policy and advocacy