



HEALTHY MOTHERS,  
HEALTHY BABIES

Coalition of Georgia

# 2024 Legislative Policy Agenda

➔ **Maintain maternal and infant health funding on the federal and state level to support programs and Georgia families.**

- Ensure adequate funding to the Department of Public Health's Maternal & Child Health Section.
- Maintain federally financed programs that support pregnant people and their families, including Head Start and Healthy Start funding.
- Provide funding to support maternal autopsies staffing and execution.



## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### Join our Infant Mortality: Safe Sleep Multisector Team

Please email Destiny Stokes, Research Manager, at [destiny.stokes@hmhbga.org](mailto:destiny.stokes@hmhbga.org).

## UPLIFTING OUR PARTNERS

The Georgia Infant-Toddler Coalition seeks to advance the health, social, intellectual, and emotional well-being of infants and toddlers across Georgia. Reach out to [Georgia Early Education Alliance for Student Readiness \(GEEARS\)](#) to get involved.

Check out the GA-AIMH: Birth to Five Initiative to get involved in [the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Coalition \(IECMHC\)](#) run in partnership with the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)



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Support the expansion and sustainability of the perinatal workforce in our state.

- Remove barriers and increase collaboration among birthworkers in the hospital setting.
- Provide safety net funding for prenatal, birth, and postpartum doula services.
- Support avenues for Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement for all perinatal health providers, including doulas, midwives, lactation professionals, and community health workers.



## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### Join our Doula Access Working Group

Please email Chanel Stryker-Boykin, Perinatal Workforce Manager, at [chanel.stryker-boykin@hmhbga.org](mailto:chanel.stryker-boykin@hmhbga.org)

## UPLIFTING OUR PARTNERS

### Community Health Worker Advocacy Coalition

To join the Community Health Workers Advocates Coalition, reach out to our partners at Georgia Watch.

Our partners at Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere & Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere are focused on breastfeeding equity in the state. Get to know them!

# 2024 Legislative Policy Agenda



## Expand access to comprehensive healthcare for pregnant and postpartum people and their families.

- Expansion of postpartum Medicaid coverage to include oral health codes, expanding dental care to pregnant and postpartum people.
- Increase reimbursements for the screening and treatment of pregnancy related or associated mental health conditions.
- Ensure optimal use of the Medicaid pathways for maternal and infant health.



## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### Join our Oral Health Working Group

Please email Fowzio Jama, Research Manager, at [fowzio.jama@hmhbga.org](mailto:fowzio.jama@hmhbga.org).

## WHY ORAL HEALTHCARE?

- Poor oral health can exacerbate a woman's chronic conditions, like diabetes or hypertension, as well as put her at a higher risk for depression.
- Poor oral health can increase in pre-eclampsia, gingival tissue ulcerations, pregnancy granuloma, gingivitis, pregnancy tumors and dental erosions.
- Research suggests that there is a strong association between periodontal disease and adverse birth outcomes including preterm birth.
- Other studies reveal that children are 3 times more likely than others to have poor oral health if their mothers have untreated tooth decay.

[Read more here about our oral health work.](#)



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## Support policies expanding on the mental wellness and safety of all pregnant people.

- Increase representation of maternal mental health in all mental health and substances use discussions and policies.
- Expand prenatal and postpartum mental health screening, education, and direct maternal mental health services.
- Eliminate births in prisons and provide for deferment opportunities for pregnant and postpartum people.
- Address and reduce maternal substance use.
- Reduce and provide support for intimate partner violence during the perinatal period.
- Support increasing the state tobacco produce excise tax on both tobacco and tobacco alternative products.



## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### Join our Perinatal Mental Health Task Force

Please email Miriam Goodfriend, Policy and Research Coordinator, at [miriam.goodfriend@hmhbga.org](mailto:miriam.goodfriend@hmhbga.org).

## WHAT IS THE PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH TASKFORCE?

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, and Postpartum Support International - Georgia Chapter have partnered to launch the Georgia Perinatal Mental Health Taskforce! The taskforce aims to provide programmatic and policy solutions for the perinatal mental health crisis in our state through the community resources and policy reform subcommittees.

[PSI Georgia helps us run our PMHTF! Check them out to learn more about maternal mental health resources and trainings.](#)

## WHY TOBACCO TAX?

Georgia is ranked 50th in the U.S. for its cigarette tax of 37 cents per pack (enacted July 2003), compared to the national average of \$1.91. Tobacco products contribute to adverse pregnancy outcomes including miscarriage and preterm birth. Smoking increases anxiety, tension, and likelihood to develop depression. Evidence shows that significantly increasing tobacco excise taxes and prices is the single most effective and cost-effective measure for reducing tobacco use.

## UPLIFTING OUR PARTNERS

[RestoreHER is dedicated to the safety and dignity of system-impacted women. They are leading the charge to end pregnancy incarceration. Learn more about RestoreHer by reaching out to the organization.](#)

[Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership.](#)

[To join, reach out to our partners NAMI Georgia.](#)

# 2024 Legislative Policy Agenda

**Maintain the economic stability of pregnant and postpartum people within and outside of the workforce.**

- Successful implementation of the federal Pregnant Workers Fairness Act across the state.
- Expand and improve upon federal programs such as TANF, SNAP, and WIC to support families in need.
- Support expansion of paid family and medical leave for all private and public sector employees in the state.
- Allow opportunities for bereavement leave for stillbirth and infant loss.

Microsoft Teams

Know Your Rights: The Impact of the  
Federal PWFA on Georgia's Pregnant...

2023-07-27 20:03 UTC

Recorded by  
Madison Scott

Organized by  
Madison Scott

## WATCH OUR WEBINAR

**Know Your Rights: The Impact of the Federal  
PWFA on Georgia's Pregnant Workers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAbTh3Hg3QQ>

## UPLIFTING OUR PARTNERS

### [Paid Leave Coalition](#)

[To join the Paid Leave Coalition, reach out to our partners at 9to5 Georgia.](#)

[To learn more about the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, check out our partners at A Better Balance.](#)

[Voices for Georgia's Children runs a WIC Working Group to help address WIC reform and execution throughout the state.](#)