The Boston Foundation

June 2025

Coffee & Conversation: Reflections on a Year of Nurturing Strong Beginnings

Let Us Celebrate!

"Joy is the resistance to the oppression we face!"

- Amanda Andere

Child
Well-Being
Economic
Opportunity
EQUITY
Community
Wealth
Community
Leadership

Child Well-Being

Our Vision: Stronger and more equitable early education and health care systems for children and the adults who care for them will ensure that children are physically and emotionally healthy, developmentally on track and well prepared to thrive in school and adulthood.

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Maternal Health Equity

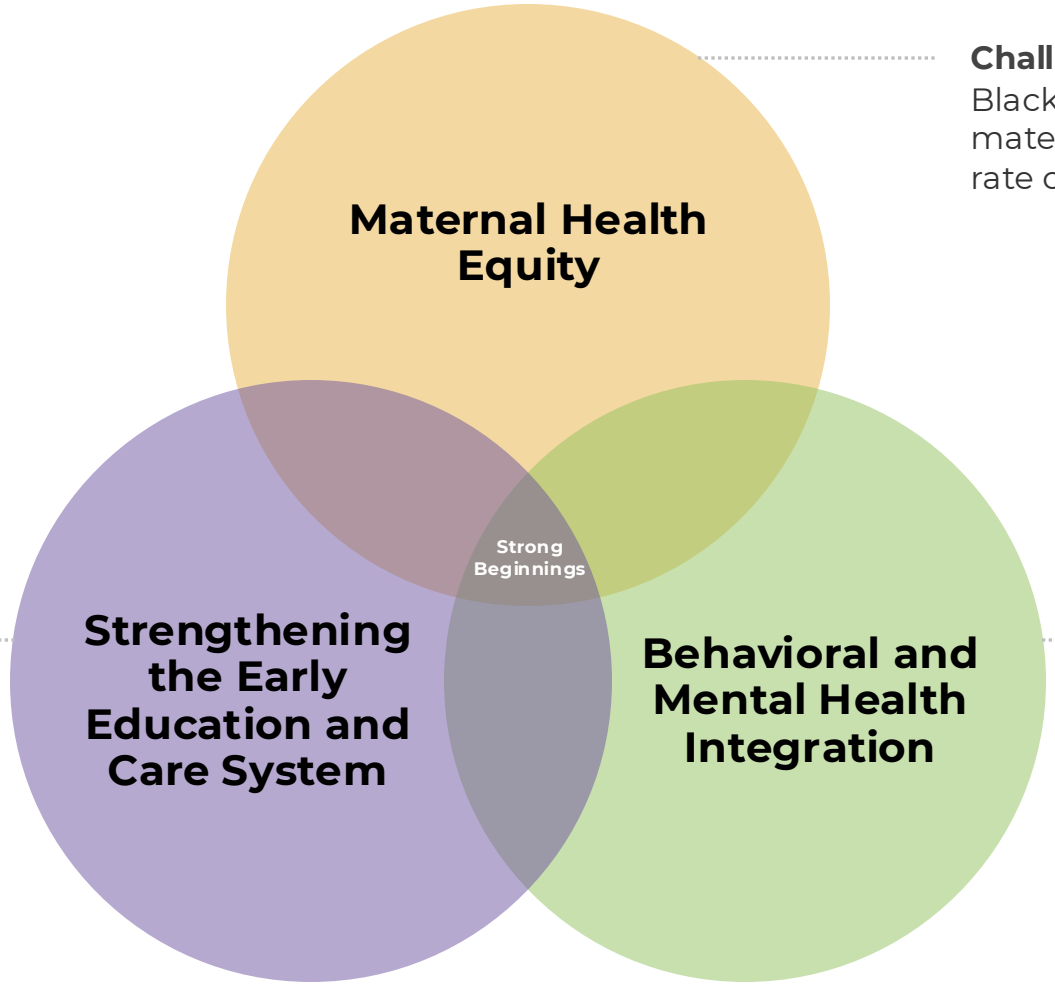
2

Behavioral and Mental Health Integration

3

Strengthening the Early Education and Care System

Why Does This Work Matter?



Challenge
Black people experience severe maternal morbidity at 2.5 times the rate of their White counterparts.

Challenge
Families struggle to find and afford high-quality early education and care, as early educators are leaving the field because of low pay and other reasons.

Challenge
There's a shortage of early childhood mental health services and gaps in screening, early intervention, and follow-up care.

Maternal Health Equity

Address racial disparities in access, quality and outcomes to create a more unified system of health services and social supports.

VitalVillage
BELONG • LEARN • ENGAGE • TRANSFORM
NETWORKS

Greater Boston
BIRTH EQUITY COALITION
POWERED BY VitalVillage

Tufts UNIVERSITY
School of Medicine
Center for Black Maternal Health & Reproductive Justice

NEIGHBORHOOD BIRTH CENTER

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE PASSES COMPREHENSIVE MATERNAL HEALTH BILL

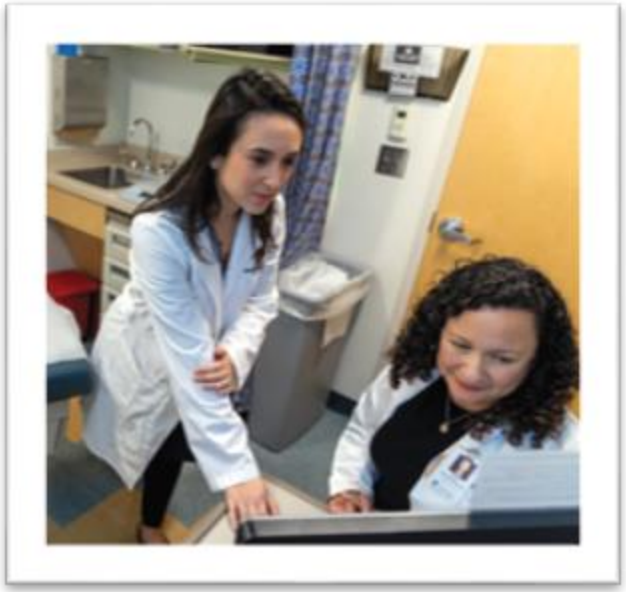
August 15, 2024

Bill expands access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options

(BOSTON - 8/15/2025) Today, The Massachusetts Legislature passed a comprehensive maternal health bill which creates a state licensure pathway for midwives and lactation consultants, encourages the creation of more freestanding birth centers, establishes a grant program to address maternal mental health and substance use disorder, and expands the statewide universal postpartum home visiting program. This legislation also mandates that insurers provide coverage for postpartum depression and major depressive disorder screenings for perinatal individuals.

Mental and Behavioral Health Integration

Provide more and earlier mental and behavioral health care between prenatal and early childhood, alongside physical health care.



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

MGH 1811
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

HCFA
Health Care For All
MASSACHUSETTS

THE HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS

The Boston Foundation

Mass.gov

Search Mass.gov

Health & Social Services > MassHealth > MassHealth Initiatives

OFFERED BY MassHealth

MassHealth Demonstration Waiver

Learn about MassHealth's Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver

Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waivers allow states to "waive" certain provisions of the Medicaid law and receive additional flexibility to design and improve their programs. Waivers may provide federal authority for states to expand eligibility to individuals who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, offer services that are not typically covered by Medicaid, and use innovative service delivery systems that improve care, increase efficiency, and reduce costs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' current 1115 Demonstration (Project Number II-W-00030/I) Extension was approved on September 28, 2022, effective October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2027.

Bill H.1228

194th (Current)

An Act to support behavioral health prevention for children

By Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1228) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to behavioral health prevention for children. Financial Services.

Bill S.802

194th (Current)

An Act to support behavioral health prevention for children

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 802) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to support behavioral health prevention for children. Financial Services.

Strengthening the Early Education and Care System

Advance high-quality early education and care through research, investments, advocacy and supports for early childhood and the early education and care workforce.

Strategies for Children

Massachusetts Early Childhood Funder Collaborative

Massachusetts Inter-Agency Early Education & Child Care Task Force

Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Grants

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) provides monthly C3 grants to support early education and care providers' day-to-day operational and workforce costs.

Healey-Driscoll Administration's Early Education and Child Care Task Force

This task force is a key part of the Healey-Driscoll administration's 'Gateway to Pre-k' agenda and is taking a whole-of-government approach to ensuring affordable, high-quality child care.

READ THE CHILD CARE TASK FORCE REPORT