



August 28, 2024

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“Instead of being told, / we should be inviting everyone / to share what they would like / the world to look like. // Instead of dictating the future vision / we must invite people to determine the / future they would like to see. // The future isn't for me, / it is for my children.”

Marc Peeples, Liberated Farms

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Welcome to the August 2024 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share additional opportunities and resources with you this month. In this edition you'll find:

- Register for Vital Village Networks' 2024 National Community Leadership Summit, October 1-2 in Boston, MA
- Register for the September 12 webinar, *Community Leadership Pathways and Advocacy: Moving towards Equitable Breastfeeding Care and Support*
- NOW Resource, *Food Sovereignty Zine: Stories of Food Resiliency and Liberation*
- NOW Resource Library featured resource, *Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit*
- Celebrate National Black Breastfeeding Week 2024
- Support our Campaign, *Together we Thrive*

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

Bienvenido a la edición de agosto del 2024 del Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum (Foro de Innovación NOW). Nos complace compartir oportunidades y recursos adicionales para usted este mes. En esta edición encontrará:

- Regístrese hoy para la Cumbre Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario des 2024 de Vital Village Networks, 1-2 octubre en Boston, MA
- Regístrese para el seminario web el 12 de septiembre, Vías de Liderazgo Comunitario y Abogacía: Avanzando hacia Cuidado y Apoyo Equitativos para la Lactancia Materna
- Nuevo Recurso, revista sobre *Soberanía Alimentaria: Historias de Resiliencia y Liberación Alimentaria*
- Recurso presentado de la Biblioteca de Recursos NOW, *Kit de Herramientas para la Promoción de la Lactancia Materna*
- Celebre la Semana Nacional de Lactancia Materna de Afrodescendientes 2024
- Apoye Nuestra Campaña, *Juntos Prosperamos*

Gracias por su compromiso a los niños, las familias, y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos en nuestro recorrido ante otro año juntos.

## Network Highlights

### 2024 National Community Leadership Summit Registration Closing

Vital Village Networks' **2024 National Community Leadership Summit**, registration is closing on **Friday August 30, 2024**. Register today to secure your spot for this two-day gathering, **October 1-2, in Boston, MA**, of fellow change makers and advocates committed to child and family wellbeing, focused on the theme *Radical Connection and Renewal for Collective Liberation*. Share your story by submitting an abstract to our **Lightning Talk Program by August 30, 2024**. Learn more on our summit website and sign up to receive the latest summit news.

[Learn More](#)



## Next Webinar: *Community Leadership Pathways and Advocacy: Moving towards Equitable Breastfeeding Care and Support*



*How are local leaders building community leadership pathways toward more equitable lactation and breastfeeding care and support for all parents and caregivers?* Join us on **Thursday, September 12th at 1pm Eastern** for the third installment of the 2024 NOW webinar series, featuring members of the Boston Breastfeeding Coalition (BBC). Learn more about coalition members' work to advocate and increase awareness about breastfeeding support services through cross-sector convenings and peer support, and hear about how the featured leaders are promoting equity and justice for breastfeeding parents in spaces all around the Greater Boston region, from hospitals to city halls.

[Register Here](#)

## New Resource: *Food Sovereignty Zine: Stories of Food Resiliency and Liberation*

*How can we build a community-powered food system that centers healing, resiliency, and parent and caregiver leadership?* Throughout this past year, ten local food systems leaders from across the country connected through the [2023 Community Food Systems Fellowship](#) explored this question and engaged in a co-design process to develop a zine sharing ancestral stories of food resiliency and liberation. We're excited to share this new resource, *Stories of Food Resiliency and Liberation*, that offers wisdom, resources, and reflections on their experiences advocating for food sovereignty.



[Read Here](#)

## NOW Resource Library Feature: *Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit*



**AUGUST 2024  
FEATURED RESOURCE**

*Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit*

**FROM K4 HEALTH**

The Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit is intended to ensure stakeholders are able to easily access and use advocacy tools aimed at improving policies and financing for the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding.

From the *Global Breastfeeding Collective*, the *Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit* can be used by stakeholders to easily access and use advocacy tools aimed at improving policies and financing for the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding. Check out this resource and many more in the [NOW Resource Library](#).

[Access the Resource Here](#)

## Celebrate Black Breastfeeding Week 2024

Black Breastfeeding Week 2024, *Reclaiming Our Narrative and Centering our Stories for Breastfeeding Justice*, is happening August 25-31 across the country. Find events in your community on the BBW Website, including the [Boston Breastfeeding Coalition's events](#) in the Greater Boston area.

[Learn More Here](#)

**BLACK BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2024**  
Sunday August 25th - Saturday August 31st  
Join the Boston Breastfeeding Coalition in Celebration of Breastfeeding!

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| <b>August 16, 23, 30</b><br><b>Family Paint Day</b><br>12:00-2:30pm est<br>The Guild 260<br>Washington Street<br>Dorchester, MA<br>Zoom available | <b>August 25-31st</b><br><b>Silent Auction</b><br>In partnership with<br>Boston University Artists                             | <b>August 26th</b><br><b>Springfield Breastfeeding Celebration</b><br>10:30am est<br>Springfield City Hall 36<br>Court Street<br>Livestream Available                                                                                                |
| <b>August 29th</b><br><b>COPHI &amp; BHSI Black Breastfeeding and the Role of Doula</b><br>6:00-7:30pm ET on Zoom                                 | <b>August 31st</b><br><b>Black Breastfeeding Week Celebration</b><br>12:00-5:00pm est<br>Walker Playground<br>Boston, MA 02108 | <b>WIC Workshop</b><br>12:00-1:30pm est<br>Attleboro Family Resource Center<br>29 N Main St<br>Attleboro, MA 02703<br><br><b>Nurturing Narratives</b><br>Sharing Our Stories, Strengthening Our Bonds<br>1:30-4pm ET<br>Schoolmaster Hill Boston, MA |

 **Listen Up! Reclaiming our Narrative & Centering Our Stories**  
 scan to learn more & RSVP  
[bostonbreastfeeding@bmc.org](mailto:bostonbreastfeeding@bmc.org)  
[bostonbreastfeeding.weebly.com](http://bostonbreastfeeding.weebly.com)





At Vital Village Networks, we envision a world where every child's birthright includes a healthy, joyful, and equitable future. As we continue to work collectively to improve child well-being and nurture community leadership, we see power in knowing we are not alone, and that **Together, We Thrive**.

Every contribution, regardless of the amount or type of service, helps to sustain this critical work of supporting civic leadership and driving positive change. Can we count on your support to reach our goal?

[Give Today](#)

The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading

#VillageInMind



[www.networksofopportunity.org](http://www.networksofopportunity.org) 

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