



April 17, 2024

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“Everyone brings a gift, and when you share that and start to show people and use it, that's where you see the impact.”

Joyce Clark, The Birthingheirs Projects

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Welcome to the April 2024 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share additional opportunities and resources with you, in honor of this year's 2024 Black Maternal Health Week. In this edition you'll find:

- Register for the April 23 Peer Learning Cluster Workshop, *Healing-Centered Advocacy for Birth Equity: Beyond Trauma-Informed Practices*
- Register for the April 25 Webinar, *Elevating Power through Healing-Centered Action: Reflections from the Greater Boston Birth Equity Coalition*
- NOW Leadership Article Spotlight, *Addressing Racial Inequities in Doula Care: An Interview with Joyce Clark*
- Join Black Mamas Matter Alliance for a week of activism and community building for 2024 Black Maternal Health Week
- Tune in for the first of three Instagram Live open table conversations with Community Food Systems Fellows
- NOW Resource Library featured resource, *Enhancing Equitable Maternal Health in Greater Boston, Framework of Coalition Principles*

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 abril de 2024 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). ¡Estamos emocionados de compartir oportunidades y recursos adicionales con usted, en honor a la Semana de la Salud Materna Negra de este año 2024! En esta edición encontrará:

- Inscribábase para el Taller de Aprendizaje entre Pares del 23 de abril, *Abogacía Centrada en la Sanación para la Equidad de Nacimiento: Más Allá de las Prácticas Informadas por el Trauma*
- Regístrese para el taller virtual del 25 de abril, *Elevando el Poder a Través de Acción Centrada en la Sanación: Reflexiones de la Coalición de Equidad de Nacimiento del Gran Boston*
- Artículo Destacado de Liderazgo NOW, *Abordando las Inequidades Raciales en el Cuidado de Doula: Una Entrevista con Joyce Clark*
- Únase a la Alianza de Mamás Negras Importan (Black Mamas Matter) para una semana de activismo y construcción de comunidades para la Semana de la Salud Materna Negra de 2024
- Sintonice a la primera de las tres conversaciones de mesa abierta de Instagram Live con Becarios de Sistemas Alimentarios Comunitarios
- Recurso destacado de la Biblioteca de Recursos NOW, *Mejorando la Salud Materna Equitativa en el Área Metropolitana de Boston, Marco de Principios de Coalición*

Gracias por su dedicación a los niños, las familias y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos mientras navegamos a través de otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

Peer Learning Cluster Workshop: Healing-Centered Advocacy for Birth Equity: Beyond Trauma-Informed Practices

Join us on **Tuesday, April 23 at 11:30-1pm Eastern** for a transformative workshop that delves into the intersection of trauma-informed practices and healing-centered advocacy to champion birth equity. By critically examining the tenets of white supremacy, we unlock tools to advocate for healing-centered approaches that promote equity in birthing experiences. Participants will embark on a journey to envision, design, and reimagine a world where birth justice is realized.

[Register Here](#)

Peer Learning Cluster Workshop
Healing-Centered Advocacy for Birth Equity: Beyond Trauma-Informed Practices
TUE, 04/23, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. ET
 Tailored for family advocates, caregivers, & professionals dedicated to birth equity, early childhood health, education, and wellbeing.
 In this transformative workshop, we delve into the intersection of trauma-informed practices and healing-centered advocacy to champion birth equity. By critically examining the tenets of white supremacy, we unlock tools that promote equity in birthing experiences.
 Vital Village NETWORK

Next Webinar: Elevating Power through Healing-Centered Action: Reflections from the Greater Boston Birth Equity Coalition



How can we elevate community power to achieve equity and justice for birthing families? Join us on **Thursday, April 25 at 1pm Eastern** for the second installment of the 2024 NOW webinar series with a dynamic conversation with members of the Greater Boston Birth Equity Coalition (GBBEC). Learn more about the coalition's story and their work to center healing-centered practices to improve maternal and infant health and birth care for families.

[Register Here](#)

NOW Leadership Article Spotlight: Addressing Racial Inequities in Doula Care: An Interview with Joyce Clark

In 1998, Joyce Clark became a doula because she knew that there had to be a better and different way to birth than the one she experienced first-hand. Read about her journey to advocate for more joyful and just birthing experiences, racial justice, and equity in the maternal health space through her work with the Massachusetts Doula Coalition and The Birthingheirs Project. *Read stories of local leaders and more in our NOW Leadership Article series.*

[Read Here](#)



2024 Black Maternal Health Week Week of Action



Join Black Mamas Matter Alliance for a week of action with this year's **2024 Black Maternal Health Week** (#BMHW24), focused on the theme *Our Bodies STILL Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice NOW!* BMHW is a week-long campaign founded and led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance to build awareness, activism, and community-building to amplify the voices, perspectives and lived experiences of Black Mamas and birthing people.

[Learn More Here](#)

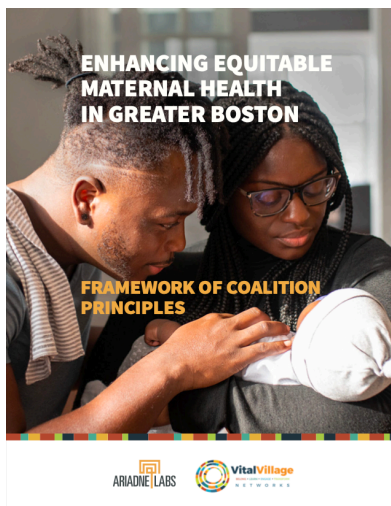
Tune in to Instagram Live: 2024 Community Food Systems Fellows

Join us on **Friday, April 26 at 2pm Eastern** for the first of three Instagram Live open table conversations with Vital Village's 2024 Community Food Systems Fellows! Hear the stories and learn about the transformative work of emerging local leaders, featuring **Cecilia Polanco** (Pupusas for Education and People for Equity), **tara rodríguez besosa** (el Departamento de la Comida de Puerto Rico), and **Isha Aran** (Three Sisters Kitchen).

Follow our Instagram



NOW Resource Library Feature: Enhancing Equitable Maternal Health in Greater Boston, Framework of Coalition Principles



As part of the launch of the Greater Boston Birth Equity Coalition, community partners from across the region worked collaboratively to design the foundational elements of a coalition governance and decision-making structure that uplifts the dignity of its members and is grounded in healing-centered advocacy and practices. Check out this resource to read more about these coalition principles, and many more in the [NOW Resource Library](#).

Access the Resource Here

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

#VillagelnMind



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