



October 29, 2025

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"When we are courageous, we can do the unexpected and start to mold the world around a vision bigger than one produced by fear. Every inch of progress, every ounce of love, every truly meaningful action from here on out will happen through courage, not comfort."

- Prentis Hemphill

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Welcome to the October 2025 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share opportunities and resources with you this month. In this edition you're invited to:

- Join the Peer Learning Cluster Co-leads for an interactive visioning session, *Co-Designing for 2026*, to determine group priorities and offerings for next year
- Register for the final installment of the 2025 NOW Webinar Series, *Centering Disability Justice in Intergenerational Movement Building*
- Join our Birth Justice Visionaries Network TODAY for *Birth Justice Fireside Chat: Reimagining Black Maternal & Infant Health Through Radical Frameworks*
- Apply for the 2026 Community Food Systems Fellowship
- Explore the featured resource from National Black Child Development Institute, *Black Maternal and Infant Health Disparities through the Lenses of Anti-Black Racism, Intersectionality, and Afrofuturism*
- Support Our Campaign, *Give Where Leaders Grow*

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 octubre del 2025 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). Nos complace compartir oportunidades y recursos con usted este mes. En esta edición está invitado a:

- Unirse a los Co-líderes del Cluster de Aprendizaje Entre Pares para una sesión interactiva de visualización, *Co-diseñando para el 2026*, para determinar las prioridades y ofertas del grupo para el próximo año
- Registrarse para la última entrega de la serie de talleres virtuales de 2025 NOW, *Centrando la Justicia de la Discapacidad en la Construcción de Movimientos Intergeneracionales*
- Unirse a nuestra Red de Visionarios de Justicia de Nacimiento HOY para la Charla Casual sobre la Justicia de Nacimiento: *Reimaginando la Salud Maternal e Infantil Negra a través de Marcos Radicales*
- Solicitar la Beca de Sistemas Alimentarios Comunitarios del 2026
- Explorar el recurso destacado del Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo del Niño Negro, *Disparidades de Salud Maternal e Infantil Negra a través de las Lentes de Racismo Anti-Negro, Interseccionalidad y Afrofuturismo*
- Aproyar Nuestra Campaña, *Donar Donde Crecen los Líderes*

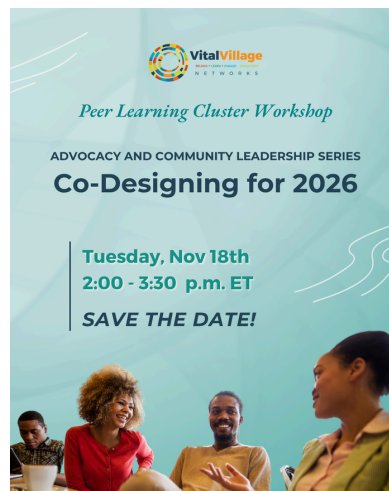
Gracias por su compromiso a los niños, las familias, y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos en nuestro recorrido ante otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

Peer Learning Cluster Workshop: Co-Designing for 2026

Join the Peer Learning Cluster co-leads on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 2:00 pm ET** for this interactive and collaborative design and planning session. Through a hands-on co-design process you will be able to help shape the Peer Learning Cluster program for 2026. In this session we will identify group priorities, build consensus on what the PLC community would like to learn and do together, and discuss additional leadership opportunities for members.

[Register Here](#)



2025 NOW Webinar Series: Registration Open



The final installment of the NOW Webinar Series, **Centering Disability Justice in Intergenerational Movement Building**, is scheduled for **November 20, 2025 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET**. In this conversation, we'll hear from leaders about the importance of centering accessibility and disability justice within movement building spaces. Join us to learn from their reflections around strategies to ensure full participation and uphold dignity and collective care across generations.

[Register Here](#)

Birth Justice Fireside Chat: Reimagining Black Maternal & Infant Health Through Radical Frameworks

The Birth Justice Visionaries Network would like to extend a special invitation to join us today **Wednesday, October 29 at 4:00 pm ET** for an interactive conversation centered on the powerful literature review by the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI), *Black Maternal and Infant Health Disparities Through the Lenses of Anti-Black Racism, Intersectionality & Afrofuturism*. We will be joined by lead author, **Leah Hairston, MSSW**, in a dynamic exploration of how birth justice can be reimagined by centering Black liberation, joy, and culturally grounded care.

[Register Here](#)



2026 Community Food Systems Fellowship: Applications are Open



This 18-month leadership program aims to increase opportunities for diverse local food system leaders to build their skills, capacity, and networks through a series of community design labs on participatory engagement and human centered design approaches, monthly learning sessions with other food systems leaders, and individualized technical assistance. Through these opportunities, the fellowship hopes to strengthen community engagement and leadership of caregivers/families, uplift strengths-based narratives, and foster collaborative leadership that scales community identified solutions and cross sector partnerships.

Selected fellows will receive a stipend and can also apply for project innovation grants that can total up to \$5,000.

Applications are due Nov. 10th, by 5 p.m. ET

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Featured Resource: Black Maternal and Infant Health Disparities Through the Lenses of Anti-Black Racism, Intersectionality & Afrofuturism

From the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) this report examines how systemic racism and overlapping forms of oppression shape health inequities for Black mothers and infants. By incorporating Afrofuturism, it reimagines possibilities for equitable futures, centering Black voices and transformative approaches to care.

To hear from lead author Leah Hairston, MSSW, join us for a special fireside chat, [Reimagining Black Maternal & Infant Health Through Radical Frameworks](#).

[Access the Resource Here](#)



Support Our Campaign: Give Where Leaders Grow



At Vital Village Networks, we recognize that it takes a village to nurture leaders **from the community, for the community**. Together, we have been dedicated to investing in networks and cross-sector partnerships that center the leadership of caregivers and families, and create collaborative tools, processes, and conditions that promote child, family, and community well-being.

We need you, our village, to support our work and help create lasting change together. Please consider making a gift today to support Vital Village Networks and invest in the wisdom, innovative strategies, and power of grassroots leadership that is **#VillageMade**.

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 

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