

# BIRTH JUSTICE AGENDA





**Birth justice** is the human right to a safe and respectful birth experience. This includes our rights to bodily autonomy, the power to make choices, and access to midwifery care. Birth Detroit believes that all people deserve access to all safe birth options. Our mission is to midwife safe, quality, loving care through pregnancy birth and beyond. We envision a world where birth is safe, sacred, loving and celebrated for everyone. Our values are Safety, Love, Trust and Justice.

- 1. Grow the number of Black midwives training and working in Detroit.**
  - Partner to make Detroit a model city for community birth education.
  - Contribute to Metro Detroit Midwives of Color scholarship fund for Black midwives.
- 2. Support Birth Detroit families to ACTT\*:**
  - Ask questions until we have enough clarity
  - Claim our space
  - Trust our bodies
  - Tell our stories
- 3. Sustain Birth Detroit as a community born, led and committed health resource vital to Detroit's future.**
  - Lead a community birth education and story sharing campaign, highlighting the legacy and power of midwives and birth workers of color.
- 4. Promote racially just and gender affirming policies to realize our human rights to bodily autonomy, to have or not have children, and to raise our children in safe, and sustainable environments.**



**Research shows** that midwifery model care improves maternal and infant health outcomes, and supports birth centers as part of integrated health systems. Birth Detroit is a leader in growing access to midwifery model care in Michigan.

## POLICY AGENDA

-  **REIMBURSEMENT**  
Establish Michigan Medicaid reimbursement and private health insurance coverage for Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) providing perinatal and birth care in community birth settings.
-  **LICENSURE**  
Gain state licensure for freestanding birth centers to facilitate reimbursement & sustainability and improve safety & standards of care.
-  **INTEGRATION**  
Lead scaling of Black-led neighborhood midwifery clinics and freestanding accredited birth centers as part of integrated health systems, including warm and formal relationship building for care coordination and safe birth across birth settings.
-  **EXTEND COVERAGE**  
Extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum people to one-year after birth.

*\*Black Coalition for Safe Motherhood*