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Checklist to Raise the Bar for Maternal Health Equity and Excellence

As an Advocate and Investor

Specific Recommendations

- Advocate for state and federal maternity care delivery and payment reforms that enable and incentivize maternal health equity and excellence, and incorporate new models into your system.** These include:
 - Maternity episode payment programs.
 - Robust, person-centered maternity care home programs with improved payment models to support them.
 - Alternative payment models (APMs) that integrate health-equity-centered care design, payment mechanisms, and performance measurement.
- To ensure everyone can obtain the maternal care they need, advocate for increasing access to health insurance.** This includes:
 - Mandating extended Medicaid and CHIP coverage for at least 12 months postpartum.
 - Expanding Medicaid in the remaining states.
 - Establishing pregnancy as a qualifying life event for special enrollment in the Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplace.
 - Requiring all forms of health insurance to cover the full range of reproductive health services, including pre-conception care, contraception, fertility treatment, and abortion care.
- Advocate for public policies that address the social drivers that undermine maternal health.** These include:
 - National paid family and medical leave.
 - Minimum wage standards that provide a living wage.
 - Universal and affordable broadband.
 - Policies to address the climate crisis.

- Affordable housing, including housing assistance.
- Transportation access.
- Food access and security.
- Resources to address intimate partner violence.
- Structures and processes in all policy development that respectfully include people with lived experience from the communities most adversely affected.
- Interoperable IT systems for connecting health, healthcare, and economic and social data that enable seamless interaction, and that facilitate collecting and reporting self-identified data on race, ethnicity, and other demographic elements.

□ Audit and adjust your business model, investment and purchasing strategies, and philanthropy to improve communities' maternal health and overall resilience.

- In procurement and purchasing, prioritize local goods and services, with special attention to businesses owned or led by women, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), people with disabilities, or LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Assess endowment investments, and divest from those that undermine maternal and infant health and community well-being.
- Collaborate with community leaders to design and fund programs.
- Nonprofit hospitals should also consider:
 - ▶ Investing, at minimum, the full value of their tax exemption in the most pressing social needs identified by Community Health Needs Assessments.
 - ▶ Direct significant community benefit resources to community-based perinatal organizations that enhance community development and population health.

□ Use your voice to shape public understanding about the importance of maternal health equity and dismantling racism and all other forms of discrimination.

- Join and support efforts to declare racism a public health emergency.
- Support public statements and adopt recommendations addressing the role of racism in the maternal health crisis.
- Consider acknowledging your institution's historic and ongoing role in perpetuating structural discrimination, with a focus on maternal and infant health.
- Engage, collaborate with, and build the capacity of BIPOC community leaders.
- Create community-level educational programs on how racism undermines health.
- Avoid performative allyship.

Find detailed recommendations and more resources at nationalpartnership.org/raisingthebar

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