

# MATERNAL HEALTH & BIRTH EQUITY PROGRAM

## *Request for Proposals*

### OVERVIEW

Washington Area Women's Foundation invests in the power of women and girls of color in the Washington, D.C. region through grantmaking and advocacy. The Foundation recently launched its Maternal Health and Birth Equity Program to help dismantle racial disparities and ensure every birthing person in the region has access to equitable care and resources, and choices to define their maternal health experience. This program is grounded in our 2024 comprehensive birth equity landscape analysis, conducted with birth workers and community-based organizations to identify critical gaps in perinatal care. Our findings reinforced what birth workers and advocates have long known: systemic inequities in healthcare, economic barriers, and a lack of culturally responsive care continue to drive preventable maternal health disparities.

We invite organizations focused on improving the perinatal experience and ecosystem in this region to apply for funding through our Maternal Health and Birth Equity Program. As a foundation committed to investing in women and girls from birth to the boardroom, we are funding community-led solutions that address these challenges and create healthier, more joyful birthing experiences.

### FUNDING FOCUS AREAS

Organizations must address one or more of the following issue areas:

- **Birth Workforce Expansion and Sustainability:** Strengthen the birth workforce by supporting Black and Brown midwives, doulas, and perinatal health advocates.
- **Maternal Mental Health:** Expanding culturally competent, trauma-informed support during the perinatal journey.
- **Social Determinants of Health:** Address key barriers such as housing concerns, food access, and economic security that impact maternal health

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Organizations meeting the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

- Serve populations in Washington, DC, and/or Prince George's County, MD
- Primarily led by and serves women, children, and gender-expansive people of color
- Overall budget of less than \$750,000 or project-specific budget of less than \$250,000 preferred
- 501(c)(3) organizations or fiscally-sponsored preferred

## TIMELINE & APPLICATION PROCESS



**JUNE 2**  
Application  
Opens



**JULY 14**  
All applications are  
due



**JULY**  
Select organizations  
are invited to a Site Visit



**AUGUST**  
Applicants receive award  
notifications and fund  
disbursement begins

## About Washington Area Women's Foundation

Washington Area Women's Foundation is a community-supported foundation that invests in the power of women and girls of color in the Washington metropolitan region. We ignite change in our community by investing intentionally in women and girls of color; promoting philanthropy that addresses the needs at the intersections of race, gender, and wealth; and advocating for the dismantling of sexist and racist systems.

Learn more about the Washington Area Women's Foundation [here](#).

**Application Link:** <https://wawf.wizehive.app/program/maternal-health>