

SYSTEM ACTOR:

→ **Community-Based Organizations**

This document describes actions from the [Birth Equity Action Map](#) that community-based organizations can take to advance birth equity, as well as potential partners and the barriers to change each action addresses. We define community-based organizations as grassroots entity rooted in local communities, primarily focused on addressing health and social service needs. With a deep understanding of the cultural, social, and economic dynamics of their community, these organizations work to enhance health outcomes by leveraging local resources, knowledge, and networks. Click [here](#) to explore the community-based organization actions in the interactive Birth Equity Action Map.



ACTION

DESCRIPTION

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

BARRIER(S) TO CHANGE BEING ADDRESSED

Activate birth equity champions to influence policy^{3,4,5}

Identify, inform, and activate champions who can influence legislators to direct funds where they need to go to support birth equity. Specifically, this might look like:

- Providing leadership and communication training to health department staff, community members, health care providers, doulas, and community health workers to advocate for equitable policies at the local/state level
- Using targeted messaging to transform mental models among policy and decision-makers
- Creating and supporting dedicated spaces to bring community voices and experiences to policymakers and legislative staff

Federal agencies, National non-profits, Private funders, State and local health agencies

Mental Model: Belief among decision makers that it is not critical to invest in workforce, anti-racism, or service gaps

Mental Model: Persistent implicit bias among providers and lack of empathy towards pregnant people of color and others with systematically marginalized identities



