

# UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION

## United Health Foundation and Birth Detroit: *Supporting Healthy Births and Healthy Babies*

Birth Detroit Birth Center is the first and only community-based birth center in the city of Detroit. Birth Detroit is a Black-led midwifery practice seeking to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in the community through increasing access to health services and education.

In Detroit, the maternal death rate for Black mothers is three times the national average and pregnant Black women are 4.5 times more likely to die than non-Hispanic white women. To address this challenge and meet the needs of the diverse birthing community in Detroit, the United Health Foundation, established by the UnitedHealth Group, announced a three-year \$1.2 million grant partnership with Birth Detroit. This partnership supported the opening of Birth Detroit Birth Center in 2025, the continuation and growth of childbirth education classes, screenings and referrals for clients with mental health needs, and the launch of pediatric care at the Birth Center.



### COMMUNITY IMPACT\*

**100%**

of babies born in the program were born at or above a healthy birth weight

**100%**

of clients in the program attended postpartum check-up

**100%**

of clients reported that their birthing experience was favorable and respectful

**100%**

of clients initiated breastfeeding

\*as of 9/30/25

### WHY IS THIS WORK CRITICAL?



Everyone deserves access to a birth experience that is safe, sacred, loving and celebrated. Our partnership means more parents and babies in Detroit will have access to relationship-based care, helping improve maternal-infant health outcomes in the short term and contributing to a lasting reduction in maternal-infant health disparities in the long term.”

Afton Shavers

Chief Administrative Officer, Birth Detroit



I truly felt taken care of with love, respect, and warmth.”

Birth Center Mom



Birth Detroit Birth Center (Opened 2025)