

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

April 7, 2026

**Proclaiming April 11-17, 2026, as “Black Maternal Health Week” and April 16, 2026, as “The Day of the Black Infant” throughout Los Angeles County**

“Black Maternal Health Week,” observed annually from April 11 through 17, was founded by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance in 2018 to bring national attention to the maternal health crisis affecting Black communities. It also promotes education, advocacy, and community-driven solutions to improve pregnancy and birthing outcomes for Black mothers and birthing people.

The 2026 observance marks a decade of the national Black maternal health movement under the theme “Rooted in Justice & Joy,” highlighting the leadership of Black communities and organizations working to advance birth equity, healing, and thriving families. Black Maternal Health Week serves as a time to honor and uplift Black mothers, families, and the care systems dedicated to ensuring joyful, healthy, and empowered perinatal experiences.

Despite progress in maternal and infant health care, significant disparities persist in Los Angeles County (County). Black infants in the County die before their first birthday at more than twice the rate of White infants, reflecting ongoing inequities in birth outcomes across the County. Similarly, Black mothers experience the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality and severe maternal morbidity, with the risk of pregnancy-related death

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estimated to be three to four times higher than that of White mothers.<sup>1</sup> These disparities persist across income levels, educational backgrounds, and geographic areas and are driven by longstanding inequities rooted in structural racism, bias in health care, chronic stress, and disparities in the social determinants of health.

To address these inequities, the County has made significant investments in maternal and infant health initiatives, programs, and services centered on community partnerships and culturally responsive care. The Department of Public Health, in partnership with First 5 LA and community organizations, continues to support the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative—a Countywide effort launched in 2018 to address the root causes of Black maternal and infant mortality and improve birth outcomes through coordinated action.

AAIMM brings together County departments, health care providers, community- and faith-based organizations, doulas, midwives, advocates, funders, and Black/African American families and community members to implement culturally grounded strategies that expand access to respectful, comprehensive maternal and reproductive health care.

Furthering these efforts, on February 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a County Medi-Cal Doula Hub, which launched with Frontline Doulas, in partnership with Diversity Uplifts, Inc., as the lead community agency. The Hub supports the rollout of the Medi-Cal doula benefit by focusing on workforce development for doulas and public education for County residents about the positive impact of doula care in addressing perinatal and infant health disparities, as well as its availability to all pregnant or newly parenting Medi-Cal members.

Achieving birth equity in Black communities requires sustained collaboration among government agencies, health care providers, community organizations, and residents. Continued investment in culturally responsive care, community leadership, and equity-centered policies will be essential to ensure that Black mothers and babies not only survive, but thrive.

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<sup>1</sup> California Integrated Vital Records System (2014–2019); 2020–2022 Annual Birth and Death Data Files, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Analysis conducted by the Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Proclaim the week of April 11 through 17, 2026 as “Black Maternal Health Week,” and April 16, 2026, as “The Day of the Black Infant” throughout Los Angeles County.
2. Encourage residents to learn about available services and resources, as well as ways to address racism, bias in health care, and birth inequities through the Los Angeles County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative website at [www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org](http://www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org); on Instagram at [@blackinfantsandfamiliesla](https://www.instagram.com/blackinfantsandfamiliesla); and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackInfantsandFamilies>, and to share the information widely throughout their cities and communities.
3. Encourage residents and County Departments to support AAIMM and its community partners by participating in events held during Black Maternal Health Week, including community resource fairs, baby showers, educational workshops, and partner-hosted activities. Residents can learn more about these events at [www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org](http://www.blackinfantsandfamiliesla.org).
4. Encourage residents and County Departments to learn about the Los Angeles County Medi-Cal Doula Hub’s available services and resources and participate in upcoming events. Residents can learn more about the Doula Hub at [www.frontlinedoulas.com/doula-hub](http://www.frontlinedoulas.com/doula-hub).

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