

NEWSLETTER



AABC Highlights from 2025:

WINTER 2026

- 253 people attended the 2025 Black and Brown Birth Summit
- Introduced the new Wilder Family Maternal Community Corner
- 11 families received support through the Family Spirit Prenatal - Postpartum Home visiting program
- 69 high risk BIPOC mothers received 966 meals through our Gentle Postpartum Recovery program
- 57 Youth attended the Youth Healing Vessels workshop

2025 ANNUAL BLACK AND BROWN BIRTHING SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 17-19TH



African American Babies Coalition

Community Conversation

Host Training



WHAT: A FREE two-day training discussing the effects of trauma & toxic stress and how we are able to support healthy brain development and resilient communities.



WHY: To train community members to share this information in the African- American community to support parents & families.



WHEN: Wednesday, January 7th, 2026 & Thursday January 8th, 2026
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

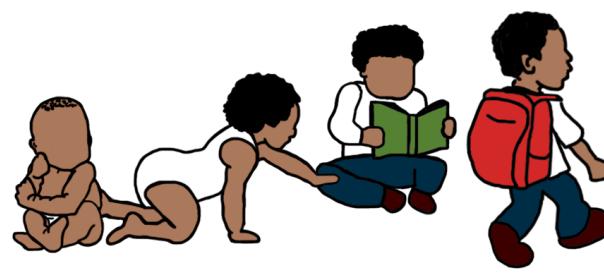
WHERE: Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
451 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul, MN 55104
Auditorium C & D

For more info contact Theresa Lloyd at
theresa.lloyd@wilder.org



Wilder
**African American
Babies Coalition
& Projects**

REGISTER NOW 



Announcing a new and cool opportunity for AABC Families

Wilder AABC received 26 Apple Computers as a donation, which we will distribute to our families throughout the year. ConvergeOne, Inc. deserves our sincere appreciation. Their recognition of family needs led them to participate in our online Family Spirit Home Visiting Program with this donation.

Moving Beyond Crisis Train the Trainer starts Jan. 2026

The Moving Beyond Crisis class is a training program that provides trainers with tools and resources to bridge and connect cultural elements of trauma-informed care to families from marginalized communities and with complex identities. The in-person training sessions will provide many opportunities for participants to engage with the trainer, fellow participants, and training materials to support diverse learning styles. This is a total of 13 ours in six sessions. Participants ill receive a certificate if all six sessions are completed.

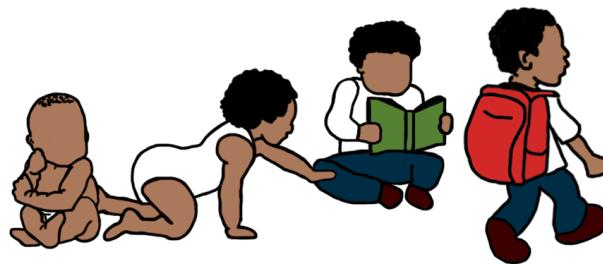
Safer Birth Consortium January 14, from 12 - 2 pm



The AABC Safer Birthing Consortium aims to foster collaboration and alignment among state and county agencies, community-based organizations, and health care providers throughout Black and Brown birthing people's childbirth journeys. We are committed to advancing equity, improving health care systems, and elevating birthing people's right to be heard. If you are a professional or part of an organization focused on maternal health outcomes for BIPOC birthing people and are interested in joining the Safer Birthing Consortium, please email Donyella Smith at donyella.smith@wilder.org

Register for any of these events today at: aabcprojects.org

RESOURCES TRAININGS AND EVENTS WINTER 2026



Wilder
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Supporting Incarcerated Mothers training TBD

This toolkit was designed to raise awareness to the unique needs of this population in our communities. The adjacent training for was created to train Friends, Family and Neighbors to gain skills that promote the low cost, high impact strategies needed to support a successful reentry and reunification experience for families and communities as a whole.



Birthing Fruition Starts in April 2026

This free learning experience will help participants develop skills in perinatal care and education to support Black and Brown communities. Topics covered include Community Outreach Perinatal Educator (COPE) Training, ACE awareness, culturally responsive home visiting and breast feeding and lactation. Healthcare professionals, home visitors, advocates and parents are encouraged to register.

Black Maternal Health Week in April 2026

This year we aim to honor and celebrate Black Maternal Health Week from April 13 - 17th, 2026. Look for more information on the details of the celebrations taking place that week in the upcoming spring quarter newsletter, on AABC website, Facebook page and other Wilder Announcement boards.



Register for any of these events today at: aabcprojects.org

Minnesota Paid Leave makes time for the moments that matter

Minnesotans take care of one another. Starting in January 2026, Paid Leave will ensure Minnesotans can take the time they need to be there for some of life's most important moments—like welcoming a child, recovering from a serious illness, or caring for a loved one.



Paid Leave coverage

Paid Leave will provide payments and job protection for:

Medical Leave

1-12 weeks



Someone's own
serious health
condition

Family Leave

1-12 weeks



Bonding with
a new child



Caring for
a loved one



Managing
military leave



Certain personal
safety issues

Maximum of 20 weeks combined in one year if someone qualifies for both medical and family leave.

Almost all employers and individuals that work in Minnesota will be covered by Paid Leave.

Paid Leave payments

Benefit payments will cover a portion of an individual's usual pay during a qualified leave. Eligibility for payments will be based on earnings in the previous year.

Paid Leave job protection

Paid Leave will ensure that employees are able to return to their job after taking leave. If someone has worked at their job for at least 90 days, their job will be protected when they return from leave.

Paid Leave funding

Paid Leave is a social insurance program. Both employers and employees will contribute premiums to the fund.

Learn more about Paid Leave eligibility, coverage, premiums and more at
info.paidleave.mn.gov



Wilder Family Maternal Community Corner



Family and Community Resources
Gentle Postpartum Meal Support
Education and Training - Home Visiting
Mother and Baby Postpartum Essentials
R.A.W. Children's Library

Visit the Wilder Family Maternal Community Corner

Wilder AABC invites you and your family to visit the Wilder Family Maternal Community Corner, a warm and welcoming resource space dedicated to support expectant and postpartum families.

This Family-friendly hub is designed to empower caregivers a wealth of maternal and family resources, including our Gentle Postpartum Meal Support and Home Visiting services.

This space is open to community on Tuesdays - Thursdays from 10 am to 4 pm or email aabc@wilder.org for more info

Meet the AABC team



Sameerah Bilal-
Roby
Director



Donyella Smith
Program Supervisor
Disparities and Family
Lead



Sheilla Matanhire
Administrative
Coordinator
Supervisor and
Assistant to Director



Theresa Lloyd
Senior Program
Associate
Training and Education
Immersion



Cristina Loaiza
Program Associate
Family Navigator



Autumn Mason
Senior Program
Associate



A special “Thank You” to all of the AABC partners who have supported our program throughout the last year and beyond. This would not be possible without each of you. We look forward to continuing this work together into 2026.

Planned Parenthood
Black & Brown Birthing Summit - Committee
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Chosen Vessels Midwifery Services and The Chocolate Milk Club
City of St. Paul College Bound
Cultural Wellness Center
D.I.V.A. Moms/MN Community Care
Early Intervention and FGDM Social Worker
FFN Project Manager/CDC-MN Dept. of Human Services
Grissinger Foundation
Health Partners/ Little Moments that Count
Healthy Black Pregnancies
Hennepin Health -Black Child Birth
Ifob - Ignited Faces of Beauty
Indigenous Healing
Isuroon Org
Leap Pediatric and Adolescent Care President
Let's Talk Kids
March of Dimes
MDH - Child & Family Health Division
Minnesota Perinatal Organization
MN Association of Children's Mental Health
Nubian Mums,333 Washington Ave N, Suite 300 Minneapolis MN 55401
Penumbra Theater
PPGJ - Planting People Growing Justice
Retired Nurse - Health
Simpson Housing
Club Mom, Club Dad & BECC
St. Paul Ramsey County BECC - Birth Equity Community Council
Ucare
United Health Care
University of Minnesota
Wayside Recovery Center
WESA - Women's Economic Security Act
Women & Infant Health Unit Supervisor - MDH
Writer
North Point Clinic Health & Wellness, 1256 Penn Ave N, Suite 5300, Minneapolis MN 55411
American Indian Family Center, 579 Wells Street, Saint Paul Mn 55130
Director of Programs- Division of Indian Works
(White Earth Ojibwe)
Director Birth Justice Collaborative
Director Peaces 'n PuzSouls Journies Through Healing
Director, People of Victory LLC
Director - Conduit for Collaboration Consulting LLC
Futsum Photography LLC
Family Spirit
Wilder Child Development Center
Wilder Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood

All Partner organizations are welcome to share events and resources that you would like added to the AABC quarterly newsletter. For more information, please email us at aabc@wilder.org