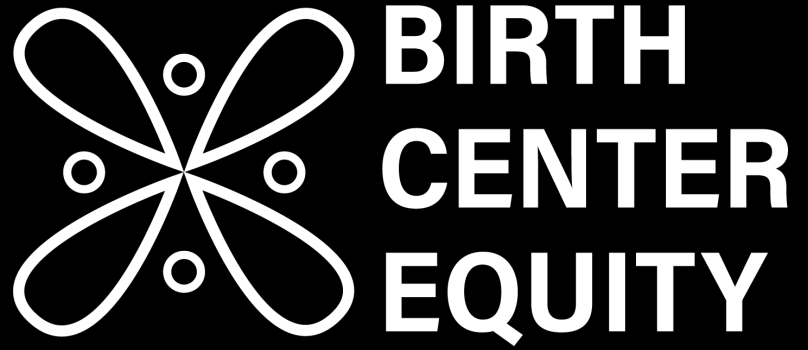




LESELIEY WELCH, MPH, MBA
Co-Founder





Safety
Abundance
Liberation



#ABirthCenterForEveryCommunity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzozSkRK--Y>

Birth Centers Are Crucial for Communities of Color, Especially in a Pandemic

APR 15, 2020, 1:14PM | LESELIEY WELCH & NASHIRA BARIL

We must act quickly to fortify established birth centers, and make birth centers a real option for birthing people in every city.



Community-based birth centers, especially those led by people of color, honor and respect cultural and spiritual traditions that are essential in times of crisis.

 *Courtesy of Neighborhood Birth Center*

“Is your birth center open?” the worried voice said on the phone.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have received a growing number of calls like this. These callers, often people far along in their pregnancy, want a safe place to give birth, somewhere that is not a hospital overwhelmed with COVID-19. What they seek is the safety of a freestanding birth center, a

What is unique about the role of Black, Indigenous, people of color led community birth centers and Birth Center Equity's approach?

BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR-LED BIRTH CENTERS

UNIQUE ROLE

- Reverse maternal health crisis by providing safe and culturally-reverent care in communities of color
- Crucial part of a vibrant health care system
- Vital infrastructure for BIPOC midwifery education, training, and practice
- Community institutions healing generations



BIPOC-LED BIRTH CENTERS BARRIERS

- Racialized undermining of midwifery
- Inequitable access to
 - midwifery education
 - preceptorship opportunities
 - capital to open birth centers
- Differential impact of
 - unsupportive state-level policies
 - inequitable reimbursement
 - inequitable birth outcomes & birth care options



UNIVERSAL GOALS TARGETED STRATEGIES

- All people have access to all safe birth options.
- Every community has access to a birth center.
- Vibrant abundant community birth infrastructure for generations to come.

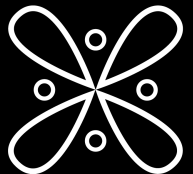
“Targeted universalism means setting universal goals pursued by targeted processes to achieve those goals. Within a targeted universalism framework, universal goals are established for all groups concerned. The strategies developed to achieve those goals are targeted, based upon how different groups are situated within structures, culture, and across geographies to obtain the universal goal. Targeted universalism is goal oriented, and the processes are directed in service of the explicit, universal goal.” J. Powell

VISION

A world where midwives, families and communities of color thrive.

MISSION

To invest in Black, Indigenous, people of color led birth centers to grow and sustain community birth infrastructure for generations.



COMMUNITY.

**BIRTH CENTER
EQUITY**

is a relationship and values-based network that nurtures BIPOC birth center leader connection, community- building and peer-learning.



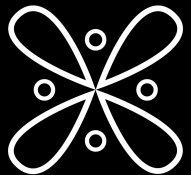
SAFETY | ABUNDANCE | LIBERATION

Tara Lawal

Birth Center Equity **in Relationship**
with Birth Center Leaders

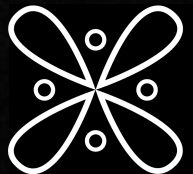


“Who are my natural allies? Who are the people that have been believing in us since the beginning?...I found an amazing community of people here with Birth Center Equity.” T. Lawal, Midwife, Seattle, WA



Birth Center Equity CAPITAL

- Leverages collective strength & visibility to generate funding and investment at scale
- Catalyzes community birth center development through capital investments and innovations in economies of scale to grow community birth infrastructure.



SAFETY | ABUNDANCE | LIBERATION

CAPITAL TOOL DEVELOPMENT

- Grants
- Recoverable Grants
- Equity Investments
- Open Doors Initiative
- BCE Capital - Family of Funds Development with Orchid Capital

Ownership | Equity | Liberation

“The more nature and community we have the less money we need. The challenge we face is not scarcity, it’s deepening relationship and flow. It’s creating the Beloved Community that Dr. King dreamed of. In relationship and flow there is fundamental abundance. **Full Spectrum Capital** is a way to direct our collective wealth towards human creativity, evolution and thriving in harmony with the rest of the natural world.”

– *Taj James, Full Spectrum Capital Partners – Co-Founder*



#BCEGOALS

COLLABORATE *to*

SUPPORT

10 NEW BIPOC community birth centers to open by the end of 2023.

STRENGTHEN

grow and sustain existing BIPOC community birth centers.

ADVANCE

equity-centered public policies to make the birth center model of care accessible to BIPOC.

ENSURE

a birth center for every community.

BUILD

lasting community birth infrastructure.

ASK

questions that support the growth & sustainability of BIPOC-led community birth infrastructure.



COURAGEOUS QUESTIONS

- How can BIPOC led birth centers be recognized and scaled as a **population health improvement strategy**?
- What does it look like to build birth centers with **midwives and families at the center**? How do we build **birth centers where midwives thrive**?
- What policies, strategies, alliances (beyond traditional philanthropy) can support **resourcing BIPOC led birth centers at scale**?
- How do we make **beloved economy** a reality in our communities?



Colorado Momnibus

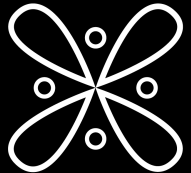
State-Level Birth Equity
Policy Spotlight

*This video was a collaboration between
Elephant Circle, Birth Detroit, MI State of Birth Justice
with funding provided by SisterSong.*



for those of us who have ever been born,


Birth Equity Legislation in Colorado
<https://youtu.be/IDsg0AEE8Oo>





On the Horizon...

- Community birth centers are **the solution** to the maternal health crisis.
- **Midwifery is the heart of communities, cultures and economies.**
- The values, practices and structures of community birth are at the center of a **beloved economy.**



**Our work today
heals past,
present and
futures.**

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WEB

birthcenterequity.org

SOCIAL

[@birthcenterequitybce](https://twitter.com/birthcenterequitybce)

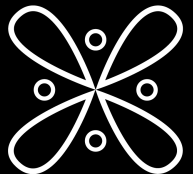
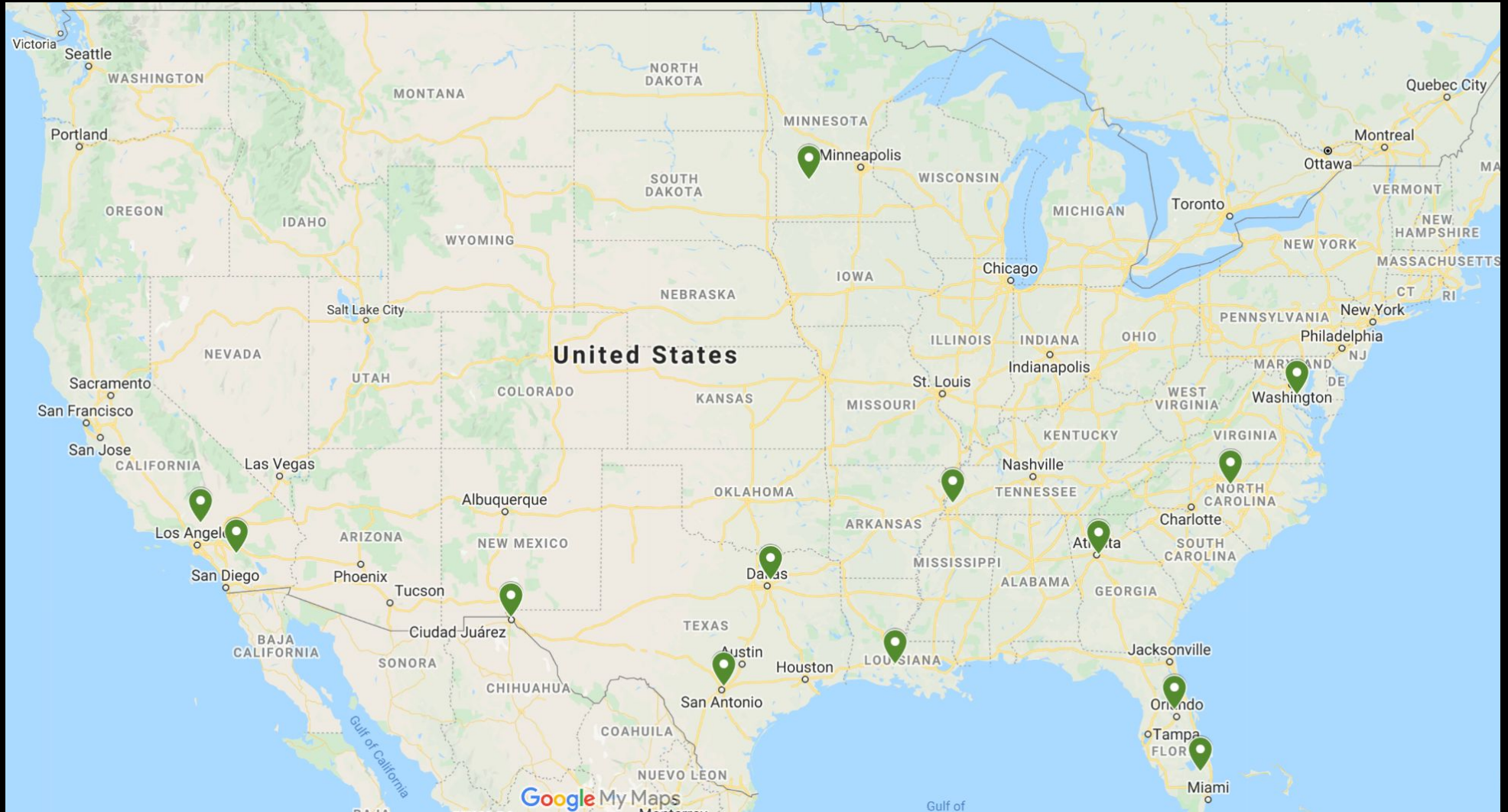
[@community_birth](https://twitter.com/community_birth)



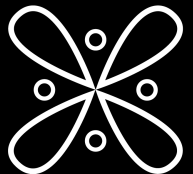
Supplemental Slides

BIPOC Birth Center Maps



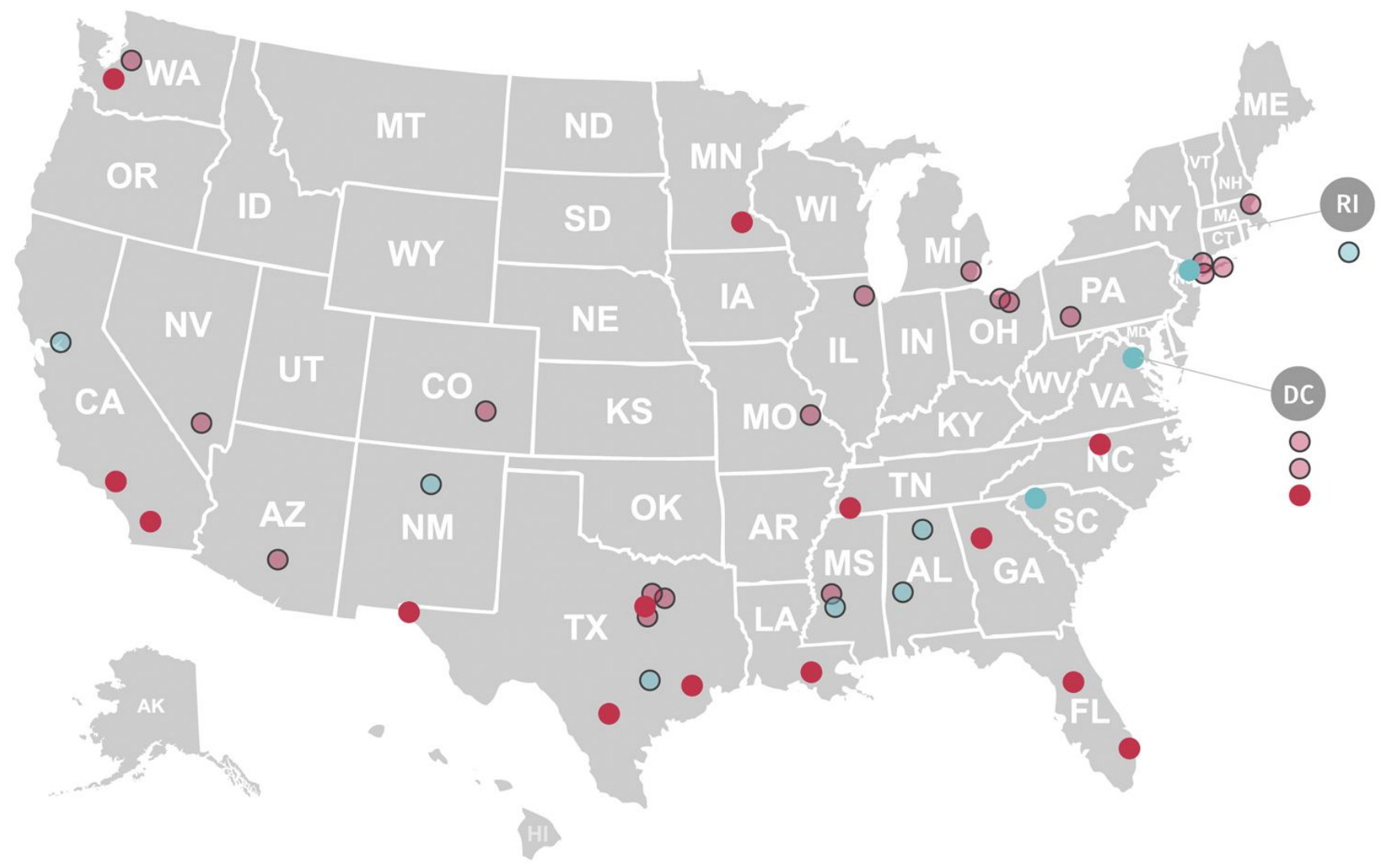


Established BIPOC BCs



Developing BIPOC BCs

FIGURE 2. BIRTH CENTER EQUITY (BCE) AND OTHER BIRTH CENTERS LED BY BLACK, INDIGENOUS, PEOPLE OF COLOR



● BCE ESTABLISHED
 ● BCE UNDER DEVELOPMENT
 ● OTHER ESTABLISHED
 ● OTHER UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Improving Our Maternity Care Now Through Community Birth Settings

April 2022

AABC
 Birth Center Equity
 NACPM
 [Other logos]