Breastfeeding Networking Resources

January 2019

Partial Government Shutdown Persists
The government has been in partial shutdown since Dec. 22. While most programs under the auspices of the Department of Health and Human Services are unaffected, the WIC program, which is funded through the Department of Agriculture, is impacted by the shutdown. We would like to share with you this latest update from our colleagues at the National WIC Association:

Updates:
• WIC agencies continue operating as normal, and have so far not reported any issues or disturbances to normal operations.
• Agencies are expected to have adequate funding on hand currently to last through the month of January.
• Food and Nutrition Service has communicated to WIC agencies that they plan to undertake measures on January 3 to identify & provide additional funding, including: allocating all remaining carryover funds and preliminary recoveries to State agencies, working with State agencies to make their FY 2018 Nutrition Services and Administration (NSA) spend forward funds available for FY 2019 obligations, and asking State agencies to identify additional unspent FY 2018 funds that may be available for recovery and reallocation as FY 2019 grant funds.

How you can help: Please get the word out that WIC remains open!

The FDA is experiencing furloughs for over 40% staff, and the Indian Health Service has been shut down.

Events, Opportunities:
Healthy People 2030: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released the proposed objectives for Healthy People 2030. The USBC has developed a background document titled "Overview of Healthy People 2030 Objective Proposal and Public Comment Opportunity." The document provides background information on the Healthy People initiative, explores how the initiative impacts breastfeeding families, the history of breastfeeding objectives in Healthy People, and the proposed objectives for Healthy People 2030. The Breastfeeding Public Health Partners will share key messages and sample talking points in next Weekly Wire to support individuals and organizations responding to the public comment opportunity. Deadline for public comments: January 17.

Breastfeeding Policy Priorities Survey: The USBC has launched a short online survey titled "116th Congressional Session: Breastfeeding Policy Priorities." Deadline: Jan 10! Feedback collected from the survey will help USBC identify the top priority issues to focus on during the
116th Congressional session and will inform the Welcome Letter and materials for the upcoming virtual "Welcome Congress Week" to be held February 18-22.

**Breastfeeding Safety Net Webinar from NACCHO:** Join the Breastfeeding Team at National Association of County and City Health Officials on Tuesday, January 15, from 2-3 p.m. ET for a webinar titled "Weaving a Breastfeeding Safety Net: Creating a Breastfeeding Ecosystem." This is the first session of the four part Weaving a Lactation Safety Net webinar series. Speakers will address the public health significance of community breastfeeding continuity of care to increase breastfeeding duration and exclusivity rates, and mechanisms that can be used to create a breastfeeding ecosystem including a seamless continuum of care to promote, protect and support breastfeeding in African Americans and low-income communities who are disproportionately affected by structural barriers to breastfeeding.

**USBC January 2019 USBC Membership Meeting:** The USBC Membership meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, January 24, from 12-4 p.m. ET. Details of the event, including the preliminary agenda, will be shared via the Members list serv.


**Ninth National Breastfeeding Conference & Convening,** *Taking Equity from Theory to Practice: Advancing Inclusive and Collaborative Breastfeeding Support,* June 14 & 15, 2019, in Bethesda, MD.

- **Call for Presentation Proposals:** Submission of proposals are invited to be considered for breakout panel presentations, lunch table discussions, and poster presentations. Find additional details in the Call for Proposals Guidelines and learn how to quickly and easily submit your proposal by watching the submission process tutorial.
- **Award Applications:** 3 categories: Emerging Leader, Tribal Trailblazer, Cultural Changemaker.

**Briefs, Articles, Online Resources:**

**EXPOSED: Discrimination Against Breastfeeding Workers.** This first comprehensive report on breastfeeding discrimination reveals widespread and devastating consequences for breastfeeding workers. [https://www.pregnantatwork.org/breastfeeding-report-fullpage/](https://www.pregnantatwork.org/breastfeeding-report-fullpage/)

A new brief from ZERO TO THREE and the Center for Law and Social Policy, *State and Federal Opportunities to Improve the Lives of Infants and Toddlers and their Families,* identifies six policy opportunities that are ripe for action at the state and federal levels to improve outcomes for babies. Read the brief to learn more about these opportunities and for additional resources to support implementation of the policy solutions. [https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2578-2018-policy-and-advocacy-wins-for-babies](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2578-2018-policy-and-advocacy-wins-for-babies)

ZERO TO THREE and the National Partnership for Women & Families have released *The Child Development Case for a National Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.* This fact sheet summarizes key research on how paid family and medical leave helps ensure that infants and young children have adequate bonding time with parents and primary caregivers, which is essential for healthy brain and emotional development. Updates to the fact sheet include new research on positive outcomes of state

**What you need to know about California's new lactation accommodation law.**


Advancing Public Narrative for Health Equity and Social Justice *Advancing Public Narrative for Health Equity and Social Justice* is a handbook that provides guidance in identifying, examining, and countering dominant public narratives and the systems that support them. Relying on examples, exercises, and questions for reflection and dialogue, this free resource supports public health practitioners and their allies in becoming effective narrative strategists to promote health equity. [https://bit.ly/2zYFq4](https://bit.ly/2zYFq4)

**Language Portal for Health Info**: National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support has released a report about its evaluation of the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant. The PHHS Block Grant provides federal funding for 61 grantees: all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 2 American Indian tribes, 5 US territories, and 3 freely associated states. This program gives grantees the ability to address prioritized public health needs in their jurisdictions in collaboration with local and tribal public health agencies and organizations. The report’s findings demonstrate that the PHHS Block Grant is supporting vital public health activities in grantees’ jurisdictions. Grantees are using block grant funds to improve their ability to collect essential data, improve the quality of programs and services, address emerging needs, and implement interventions that are known to work. View the full report and a summary of key findings You can view the full report Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Evaluation Report: 2017 Framework Measures Assessment—Key Findings and web-based summary on CDC’s website. [https://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/docs/BGEvaluationReport2017-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/docs/BGEvaluationReport2017-508.pdf) [https://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/2017evaluationreport.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/2017evaluationreport.htm)

**Interpregnancy Care**: A report study in *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* reinforces the importance of interpregnancy care to promote women's health to maximize wellness as a continuation of immediate postpartum care.
[https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(18)32144-6/pdf](https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(18)32144-6/pdf)

The Upside of Conflict. [https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_upside_of_conflict](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_upside_of_conflict)
Contact Info of Guest Speaker, Tiana Pyles, TN Breastfeeding Coalition: tpyles@bstars.org

Related/Miscellaneous:
(Good Driver Diagram and QI examples) A Curated Collection to support primary care practices and practice facilitators search among 100 tools and resources to increase their use of evidence and improve patient care. A quality improvement framework—the EvidenceNOW Key Driver Diagram—helps users to target change strategies such as selecting and customizing the best evidence, creating and supporting high functioning teams, and engaging patients and families in evidence-based care. Tools for Change is an outgrowth of EvidenceNOW, an initiative launched in 2015 that used practice facilitators to work with more than 1,500 small- and medium-sized primary care practices nationwide to improve heart health. https://www.ahrq.gov/evidencenow/tools/index.html

International resource for maternal, infant health: The Maternal and Child Health Handbook is the centerpiece of a 50-country effort to give children a healthy start, focusing on the first 1,000 days of life. Versions of the handbook have been adapted for local communities to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development goal of getting the mortality rate under 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. (Utah has adapted this handbook). http://www.mchhandbook.com/

October 2018

October is SIDS/SUID Awareness Month
• For or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month, CDC is sharing tips parents and caregivers can use to help reduce the risk of sleep-related infant deaths. https://www.cdc.gov/features/babysafesleep/index.html

• CDC and NICHD are teaming up to encourage people to share photos of babies (up to 12 months of age) in a safe sleep environment to help educate others about safe infant sleep. Encourage your friends and followers to participate during the month of October by sharing the following social media post: Do you know what a safe infant sleep environment looks like? Share this example, or take a pic of your baby, grandbaby, niece, or nephew sleeping safely and share it with your followers. Be sure to use #SafeSleepSnap in your post! Remember: safe sleep environments are firm, flat, & free of soft and loose items. Babies sleep safest on their backs! #SafeToSleep https://www1.nichd.nih.gov/sts/about/environment/Pages/look.aspx

• NICHQ Video Quiz
• This short video quiz can be used by health professionals to engage caregivers in conversations about safe sleep recommendations. It provides eight different examples of sleeping infants and asks viewers to identify whether or not the depicted behavior is safe. An explanation and
recommendation is provided after each scenario.  

**HHS Promotes Fathers and Families at Center of HHS Program**

HHS issued an information memorandum and a blog post encouraging all HHS agencies to emphasize fathers in all family support and child welfare programs. HHS said it strongly encourages fathers becoming more involved in the lives of their children. The memorandum highlights research findings that demonstrate the value of father involvement in the lives of children and families and identifies promising practices to promote and sustain meaningful father engagement, regardless of a father's physical location or custodial participation.

-  [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/acffatherhoodim_final.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/acffatherhoodim_final.pdf)

**The Robert Wood Johnson (RWJF): The State of Obesity 2018**

The Robert Wood Johnson (RWJF) has released new data showing that nearly one in six youth ages 10 to 17 have obesity. Mississippi has the highest youth obesity rate, at 26.1 percent, while Utah has the lowest, at 8.7 percent. The new data also confirm that racial and ethnic disparities persist: Black and Hispanic youth continue to be at a greater risk for obesity than their white and Asian peers. For more information, view the Trust for America's Health and RWJF report *The State of Obesity 2018: Better Policies for a Healthier America*.

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Health Impact in 5 Years (HI-5) initiative has released new success stories about how Georgia and North Carolina are increasing physical activity through active transportation options and school-based physical activity. The HI-5 initiative highlights non-clinical, community-wide approaches that have evidence reporting positive health impacts, results within five years, and cost effectiveness and/or cost savings over the lifetime of the population or earlier.

**Merck for Mothers: The Safer Childbirth Cities initiative**

Merck for Mothers is launching a new multi-city initiative to reduce maternal mortality, improve health outcomes and narrow disparities in maternal health, and is seeking expressions of interest from eligible city-based organizations across the country. The Safer Childbirth Cities initiative will support US cities with a high burden of maternal mortality and morbidity to implement evidence-informed interventions and women-centric, innovative approaches to reverse the country’s increase in pregnancy and childbirth-related deaths and life-threatening complications. *Expressions of Interest are due October 31*. A limited number of applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal to the Safer Childbirth Cities initiative in early 2019.

**ACOG Postpartum Toolkit**
ACOG's new Postpartum Toolkit includes resources on key components of Fourth Trimester care such as long-term weight management, pregnancy complications, reproductive life-planning, sample postpartum checklist for patients, as well as reimbursement guidance. [https://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Departments/Toolkits-for-Health-Care-Providers/Postpartum-Toolkit](https://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Departments/Toolkits-for-Health-Care-Providers/Postpartum-Toolkit)

Supplement The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program is a two-generation approach to supporting healthy families through home visits during pregnancy and early childhood. All states and territories receiving MIECHV funding are encouraged to evaluate their programs. This special issue highlights evaluations from 11 awardees—Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. With the wide expansion of home visiting since the onset of MIECHV, the state-led evaluations contribute to the understanding of replication and scale-up of evidence-based home visiting. The 11 articles in this Special Issue are available online and in PDF in full text. [https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/22/1/suppl/page/1](https://link.springer.com/journal/10995/22/1/suppl/page/1)

**ABM Podcast: Marijuana and Breastfeeding with Anne Eglash MD, IBCLC and Karen Bodnar MD, IBCLC**

**Trust for America’s Health’s 4-part web forum**
Please join us for the final segment of Trust for America’s Health’s 4-part web forum: Taking Action to Promote Health Equity—Using the Lessons from Cutting-Edge Practices to Improve Health and Well Being. [https://bit.ly/2CEHgRB](https://bit.ly/2CEHgRB)

**Nemours Children’s Health System**
Please join Nemours Children’s Health System for an engaging discussion on community care coordination systems and the role of technology applications that are emerging to “close the loop” between clinical and community services. [https://bit.ly/2SkXchx](https://bit.ly/2SkXchx)

**Paid family and medical leave in the United States.**
A growing number of states are experimenting with policies designed to provide widespread access to paid family and medical leave. These state laboratories have created a window of opportunity for learning more about the demand for paid caregiving leave across the life cycle, as well as the costs and
benefits of paid leave policies for individuals, families, businesses, and the economy as a whole. This paper explores the evidence from the United States on the need for and impact of paid leave, and in doing so, lays out a research agenda designed to accelerate the evidence base to help state and federal policymakers make informed policy decisions.https://equitablegrowth.org/research-paper/paid-family-and-medical-leave-in-the-united-states/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=MzM0NrEwMLwMjQ0BQA&sseid=MzS3sDCxNLiwMAYA&jobid=b101951a-994e-419b-a785-db4a8d97d51c

Articles:

**New Federal Law Requirement**
Federal law now requires large airports to have nursing rooms, but New Orleans was ahead of the curve. https://www.nola.com/opinions/2018/10/federal-law-now-requires-large-airports-to-have-nursing-rooms-but-new-orleans-was-ahead-of-the-curve.html

**The Daily Illini**

August 2018


2. **Webinars:**
   - **2018-08-21 Breastfeeding Works Webinar.** Video Recording. Information and tools to counsel breastfeeding workers and students. The expert panelists covered the national and state laws that protect breastfeeding parents from discrimination, and the laws that require lactation accommodations at work and school. Webinar objectives:
     - Offer guidance on what lactation consultants and other healthcare providers can do to best support their patients, including how to write effective work notes.
     - Using vignettes based on real-world scenarios, the experts will walk you through key considerations in counseling parents who are facing challenges at work or school.
     - Introduce you to the top resources available when you or your patient need additional support.
3. Lactation Accommodation Work Place Resources:
   - **USBC Workplace Constellation**: [http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/ws-const](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/ws-const)
     - Increase understanding of employer responsibilities and employee rights under federal and state law through an education campaign emphasizing existing implementation resources
     - Identify gaps in the current laws and work to expand protections for all employees
   - **NCSL** has updated their directory of state breastfeeding laws.  
     [https://mailchi.mp/raisingwomensvoices/testing-new-template-2478853?e=7125b3a696](https://mailchi.mp/raisingwomensvoices/testing-new-template-2478853?e=7125b3a696)
   - **Making it Work Toolkit** (shared by Diane Beth, North Carolina)
     Adapted from the New York State Department of Health, provides essential information for mothers, their families, and employers to support breastfeeding. The NC Making It Work Tool Kit is comprised of five sections:
     - For Moms - What to consider when breastfeeding and returning to work
     - For Family Members - How to support mom’s journey to breastfeed
     - For Employers - How to accommodate breastfeeding employees in the workplace
     - The Law - What is required of the Federal Labor Standards Act Worksite Lactation Accommodation law
     - Other Materials - Sample letters and policy to assist moms and employers
   - **Workplace BF Support in CA** (shared by Ifeyinwa, CA)

4. Partners Supporting BF:
   - Father’s Breastfeeding Preferences and Breastfeeding Duration.  

5. **Safe Sleep**: The National Institute for Children’s Health Quality (NICHQ) is leading the National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep Improvement and Innovation Network (NAPPSS-IIN):
   - Making Safe Infant Sleep and Breastfeeding a National Norm funded by MCHB/HRSA. Four Action Teams: 1) Aligning National, State, and Local Efforts; 2) Public Media; 3) Childcare & Early Education; 4) Conversation modules - Building on Campaigns with Conversations an approach to supporting caregivers to help overcome barriers to safe sleep and breastfeeding, taking into account each family’s needs, beliefs, and the context of their lives.  
     [https://www.ncemch.org/learning/building/](https://www.ncemch.org/learning/building/) AND  

6. **National Black Nurses Association Announces Breastfeeding Resolution.**  

7. **Local Spotlight: Brooklyn Empowerment Zone:**
8. **Lactation Support Provider Directory:** Are you interested in providing breastfeeding support to families in your community? USBC, in partnership with the Lactation Support Providers Constellation, is excited to launch the Lactation Support Provider Training Directory. There are many ways that individuals can gain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide high quality lactation support. The Training Directory is a place where you can explore a variety of national training courses that are offered both in-person and online. Check it out today and get started on your journey to become a lactation support provider. [http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/page/trainingdirectory](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/page/trainingdirectory)

9. **Reports/Resources/Articles:**
   - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MWWR), the number of women with opioid use disorder (OUD) at labor and delivery has quadrupled from 1999 to 2014. OUD during pregnancy has been associated with a range of negative health outcomes for both mothers and their babies including maternal death, preterm birth, stillbirth, and neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6731a1.htm?s_cid=mm6731a1_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6731a1.htm?s_cid=mm6731a1_w)
   
   
   - The National Institute for Children’s Health Quality (NICHQ) released a set of recommendations implemented at Fort Duncan Regional Medical Center in Eagle Pass, TX, a border community, to increase exclusive breastfeeding in a Hispanic population. Among the suggestions are encouraging staff to support breastfeeding; providing accessible and face-to-face education in the mother’s preferred language; recognizing and addressing knowledge gaps in the population served; and identifying champions in the community. [https://www.nichq.org/insight/closing-breastfeeding-disparity-gap-methods-improvement](https://www.nichq.org/insight/closing-breastfeeding-disparity-gap-methods-improvement)
   
   - **The Science of What Makes People Care.** Effective communication is not simply about getting your message out. It requires you to strategically tap into what shapes people's feelings and values. Here we share five principles pulled from social science that will help you connect your
work to what people care most about.
https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_science_of_what_makes_people_care

- MCH Learning Bundles and Guides: https://www.mchnavigator.org/trainings/topics.php
- CDC Public Health Professionals Gateway https://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/

10. USBC Policy Toolkit: www.usbreastfeeding.org/policy-toolkit

11. Peer Support:
   - Bi-weekly Peer-led group meetings has just commenced to discuss the criteria for a Breastfeeding Friendly Cities & Towns list. Next meeting, tomorrow Friday, Aug 31. Meetings held every other Friday from 2:30-3:30 pm ET
   Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/151623333.
   You can also dial in using your phone.
   Tel: (669) 224-3412 .Access Code: 151-623-333
   - Schedule of topics:
     - Peer Support (Baby Cafe, Local Chapter/Coalition, La Leche League, WIC Clinics w/BPCs, etc) Aug 17
     - Hospitals & Medical Providers (eg 10 Steps, Pediatrician Offices/Clinics, Access to Lactation Care Providers (BPCs, CLEs, CLCs, IBCLCs), etc) Aug 31
     - City, County and State Policies and Practices (Proclamations, Policies and Procedures by Dept: Libraries, Public Safety, Sanitation, Transportation, City Contractors, etc) Sep 14
     - Media Coverage (how many stories, who is quoted, how many column inches/seconds of airtime, placement, timing, etc) Sep 28
     - Child Care Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities Policies and Practices Oct 12
     - Recreational Venues (Zoos, Sports Events, Museums) Policies and Practices Oct 26
     - Workplaces, Businesses & Shopping Center Policies and Practices (include points for Paid Leave and Infants at Work Policies) Nov 9
     - SKIP Nov 23
     - Places of Worship Policies and Practices Dec 14
     - Correctional Facilities Policies and Practices Dec 28
     - Homeless Shelters & Support for Moms w/ Substance Use Disorders Policies and Practices Jan 11
     - Military Base Policies and Practices Jan 25
Emergency Policies and Practices (to include cleaning pump supplies, re-lactation, access to electricity for freezers, infants at work policies, etc) Feb 8

USBC TA Team:
Kinkini Banerjee, Coalition Relations Director: kbanerje@usbreastfeeding.org
Cheryl Lebedevitch, Senior Workplace Program Manager & Policy Analyst: clebedev@usbreastfeeding.org
Miriam Rodriguez, Coalition Relations Coordinator: mrodriguez@usbreastfeeding.org
Adilene Robinson, Member Relations Coordinator: arobinson@usbreastfeeding.org

USBC TA Options
• USBC Staff team expertise
• State Communities of Practice
• Connecting you with people, orgs and resources
• Visibility: Coalition Spotlight, webinar
• Providing project-specific trainings. Occasionally joining your team meetings, if needed
• Updates on national initiatives
• Finding synergies with other national and state initiatives to scale impact

June 2018

America Tries To Upend Global Resolution On Breast-Feeding With Threats Of Trade Retaliation
The resolution on the benefits of breast-feeding from the World Health Assembly was expected to pass easily, but U.S. officials resorted to threats after their attempts to water the measure down failed. In the end, Russia stepped in to introduce the resolution.

The New York Times: U.S. Opposition To Breast-Feeding Resolution Stuns World Health Officials
A resolution to encourage breast-feeding was expected to be approved quickly and easily by the hundreds of government delegates who gathered this spring in Geneva for the United Nations-affiliated World Health Assembly. Based on decades of research, the resolution says that mother’s milk is healthiest for children and countries should strive to limit the inaccurate or misleading marketing of breast milk substitutes. (Jacobs, 7/8)

USBC will publish statement. We are also collating all partner statements.

Fathers/Spouses Supporting Breastfeeding
• Engaging Men and Dads at WIC
• https://www.bootcampfornewdads.org/
• https://kellymom.com/pregnancy/bf-prep/bf-links-father/
• Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere (ROBE)

Fact Sheet on Fathers and Paid Leave, from NPWF: The National Partnership for Women & Families has updated the "Fathers Need Paid Family and Medical Leave" fact sheet. The resource now features
new research on low-income fathers, updated usage data from state paid leave programs, and updated demographic data.

**USBC Policy Toolkit: [www.usbreastfeeding.org/policy-toolkit](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/policy-toolkit)**

**Issue Brief on Aligning Public Health Programs, from NICHQ**
Infant Mortality CoIIN Case Study. The National Institute for Children's Health Quality has published an Issue Brief titled *Aligning Title V, Healthy Start, and Families to Increase New Mother Wellness in New Jersey.* The issue brief examines how leveraging family and patient engagement can improve maternal and infant health outcomes. In an effort to increase postpartum visit rates and improve mother wellness, New Jersey engaged mothers as partners in their state's improvement work. The brief was developed as part of the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network to Reduce Infant Mortality (Infant Mortality CoIIN).

**Report on High-Value Maternity Care and Physiologic Childbearing, from NPWF**
The National Partnership for Women & Families has published a report titled *The Blueprint for Advancing High-Value Maternity Care Through Physiologic Childbearing.* The report details six strategies to advance high-value maternity care by promoting, supporting and protecting women's capacity for healthy childbirth and by safely limiting use of consequential interventions around the time of birth. The report highlights the importance of breastfeeding support and breastfeeding-friendly maternity care practices.

**New Reports Build on Business Case for Racial Equity, from Altarum/WKKF**
Altarum and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation have recently released several state-specific reports that build on the national case study *The Business Case for Racial Equity: A Strategy for Growth.* The reports include analyses on how Michigan, Mississippi, New Orleans, and New Mexico each stand to benefit economically by closing the racial equity gap by the year 2050.

**Report on Health Equity and Early Childhood, from RWJF**
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has published a report titled *Early Childhood is Critical to Health Equity.* The report, produced in partnership with the University of California, San Francisco, examines some of the barriers to health equity that begin in a person's first five years of life as well as promising strategies for overcoming health equity barriers.

April 2018

• Charting the Course: [http://breastfeeding.naccho.org/bphpwebinars/](http://breastfeeding.naccho.org/bphpwebinars/)

• **Spectrum of Collaboration as model for community engagement**


• Anthem Sign-on letter: Click here for full text of the letter. Organizations are invited to sign on via our form.

• The recording of the Community Engagement: Setting the Stage for Dialogue webinar may be helpful as well. [http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/p/cm/ld/fid=287](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/p/cm/ld/fid=287)