

ARKANSAS CoIIN

Breastfeeding Workstream

GOAL:

Support breastfeeding mothers who have limited access to health care by conducting lactation accommodation training in worksites within at-risk communities.



Arkansas's CoIIN team sought to engage employers and communities in the state's southeast/Delta region on the procedures and policy changes necessary to support lactating women in the workforce. Through lactation accommodation training, breastfeeding employees could increase the duration and exclusivity of breastfeeding by having adequate space and time to pump, breastfeed, and store milk at their worksites. After an initial analysis, the team decided to focus their efforts exclusively on lactation accommodations in early childhood education centers (ECEs) within communities of color.

PARTICIPANTS

- 7 ECEs including:
 - University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
 - Shorter College in North Little Rock
 - Standalone ECE in Little Rock
 - Standalone ECE in Monticello
 - ECE housed in a high school for teen moms and teachers
 - Rural ECE in northeast Arkansas
 - Urban ECE dedicated to children with special needs

PARTNERS

- Arkansas Breastfeeding Coalition
- Baptist Health System
- DHS/Child Care Aware
- Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Department of Health
- University of Arkansas of Medical Sciences (UAMS)
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
- WIC

METHODOLOGY

- Implemented innovative approach by targeting Early Childhood Education (ECEs) sites for lactation accommodation
- Worked strategically with various partners to identify and target locations and successfully recruit ECEs
- Created culturally-sensitive and accurate messaging around public acceptance of breastfeeding and workplace accommodations within African American communities
- Held training for all staff
- Provided education to ECEs and moms regarding legal protection to breastfeed and pump at work and in public

RESULTS

- Implemented breastfeeding accommodations in 7 of the 10 ECEs targeted
- Created lactation rooms on the campuses of two of the state's four historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs)
- Established lactation accommodations at a church-based ECE primarily serving the Hispanic community in SE Arkansas
- Held a successful press conference for launch of one HBCU ECE lactation room that received wide press coverage and participation from Governor's office, First Lady and Mayor.

“Making healthy choices, easy choices.”



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