

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Community Advisory Committee Members

Introduction to the Alliance

The New Jersey Birth Equity Funders Alliance (Alliance) was originated in support of the objectives of the Nurture New Jersey Strategic Plan, which strives to make New Jersey, the safest and most equitable place in the nation to give birth and raise a baby. The Alliance aims to contribute to overall improvements in maternal health outcomes in New Jersey, including racial disparities.

The Alliance comes together in a spirit of collective commitment and action, leveraging individual strengths of the member funders. In service to our goal of achieving birth equity in New Jersey, we seek to be true partners to families, communities, the public sector, and community-based organizations (CBOs). This means we must learn new approaches to philanthropy and unlearn others. The Alliance's guiding principles include a focus on racial equity, collaboration, learning, mutual accountability, and co-designing solutions with the community.

The initial focus of the Alliance will be to increase the availability of and access to community-based services targeting the needs of families. At present, the Alliance includes the following funders: Burke Foundation, the Community Health Acceleration Partnership (CHAP), The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Invitation to Join the Community Advisory Committee

As one of its formative actions, the Alliance is setting up a Community Advisory Fund that will provide funding to New Jersey based CBOs on an annual basis for their capacity building needs. A **Community Advisory Committee** will govern the Community Advisory Fund and will help guide the focus and approach to its grantmaking. In 2022 and beyond, the Alliance plans to launch additional grant RFPs, and the Community Advisory Committee will work jointly with the Alliance to evaluate grant request submissions. The Alliance is now seeking members for this **Community Advisory Committee**.

Below are more details about the Community Advisory Committee and how to apply to become an Advisory Committee candidate.

Community Advisory Committee Overview

Size: Five to Seven initial members for a 1-year term (with potential to grow in the future based on the guidance of Advisors)

Purpose: Guide the design of the Community Advisory Fund, help manage grantee selection and engagement processes, and provide strategic counsel to the Alliance on opportunities to advance birth equity in New Jersey.

Principles: Once set up, the Committee will have autonomy to collectively decide its preferred approach to engagement with one another, including but not limited to membership terms, reduction/expansion of the Committee, and adjustment to the time commitment.

Activities: Mix of in-person and virtual monthly meetings (adjustable upon Advisors' collective decision). The Committee will work in coordination with CBOs, the Alliance, and relevant state agencies. Some of the activities may include public-facing meetings, such as webinars, town halls, and community meetings.

Time commitment: At least two hours a month, probably higher time investment initially.

Membership: One-year, with possibility to extend depending on Advisors' availability

Honorarium: \$2000/person per year.

Eligibility Criteria

- The potential Community Advisor resides and/or works in New Jersey.
- The Advisor should have expertise in birthing issues through lived experience, direct service, academia, government, advocacy, health care/administration or similar experiences.
- The Advisor has available time to dedicate to the Community Advisory Committee (approximately two hours per month).
- The Advisor is passionate about birth equity in New Jersey.

If interested, please click [here](#) to submit your application by December 31, 2021. The decision will be made and communicated by the end of January.

Any inquiries regarding the New Jersey Birth Equity Funders Alliance or Community Advisory Committee could be sent to NJ@BirthEquityAlliance.com.