

# Marshallese Moms and Babies Workgroup



## Progress Report 2022 - 2024

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# About the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide reflections on The Marshallese Moms & Babies Workgroup and Pacific Islander community collaborative efforts in Davis County, Utah.



*Photos: Traditional Tongan tau'olunga dance performed by young women to celebrate special occasions, which can be performed in groups or individuals. The young group of girls in the above image is performing their first tau'olunga.*



## Key Acronyms

- CHW: Community Health Worker
- DCHD: Davis County Health Department
- NH: Native Hawaiian
- PI: Pacific Islander
- UMW: United Micronesians Women
- UPIHC: Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition

# About the Workgroup

The Marshallese Moms and Babies Workgroup was formed in 2022.



*Photo: Oscar Ames, Tima Clawson, Elina Fred "Fred", Danty Marshall*

The Marshallese Moms and Babies Workgroup began because a Community Health Worker (CHW) at the Davis County Health Department (DCHD) saw a need in her community. Drawing from partnerships created during the COVID-19 pandemic, including community-based organizations, the Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition ([UPIHC](#)), Midtown Community Health Center ([Midtown](#)), and partnerships with staff across several divisions at DCHD, the group was formed in 2022. As priority areas were determined, additional partnerships were formed, such as with United Micronesians Women ([UMW](#)), and [Waterford Upstart](#). While the workgroup initially worked to reach the Marshallese population in Davis County, efforts have expanded to all Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (NHPs) in the county. Community partnerships and their connections with the community have been vital to the success of the group.

# Mission, Vision, Goal

## Mission

*Non kolaplak jolla eo ilo mour ko an jinen bamle ko an ri-majol ro ilo Davis County in ilo aer kolaplak jolla ko ikijeem aer bikoti jiban ko jen jukjuk in bed in.*

To enrich the lives of Marshallese mothers and families in Davis County by promoting, increasing, and navigating community resources and services.

## Vision

*Jined kibed*

Mothers who steer

## Goal

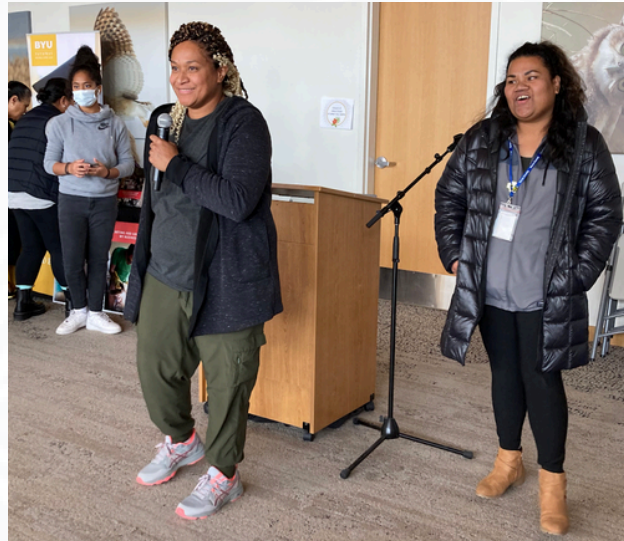
*Ejmour eo ilo jinen ajiri eo*

Healthier moms and babies

# Leadership and Community Connectors

## Leadership

The group is currently co-chaired by Danty Marshall, DCHD CHW, and Timaima “Tima” Clawson, UPIHC Davis County Chapter Coordinator.



## Key Community Connectors

- Diana Debrum, UPIHC
- Doraleen Taulanga, Utah Transit Authority (UTA)
- Elina Fred, UMW
- Joyce Kim, Healthchoice Utah
- Malia Tomasi, UPIHC
- Oscar Ames, Midtown
- Susan Gum, UPIHC
- Tisa Maile, Waterford Upstart (through 2023)

Photos (top): Tima (left) & Danty (right), (bottom): Fred, Tisa, Joyce



## Meetings

The group meets on an as-needed basis. Meetings are typically held virtually through Google Meet.

- 5 meetings were held in 2022 (July, August, September, October, November).
- 3 meetings were held in 2023 (March, May, September).
- 7 meetings were held in 2024 (May, September, October, November).

# Areas of Focus

To determine priorities, lived experience and qualitative data from community connectors were used. In 2022, Cody Mayer, an epidemiologist with DCHD, compiled the Pacific Islander Community Health Indicators Report, which provided quantitative data to guide decisions. Data is limited at the local level, so state and national levels were used when local data were unavailable. When determining workgroup capacity, community readiness, and alignment with partner and community priorities, focus areas were narrowed to the following:

- Access to Healthcare
- Maternal Health
- Mental Health

Additional areas of focus identified for the future include:

- Sex Education
- Violence Prevention

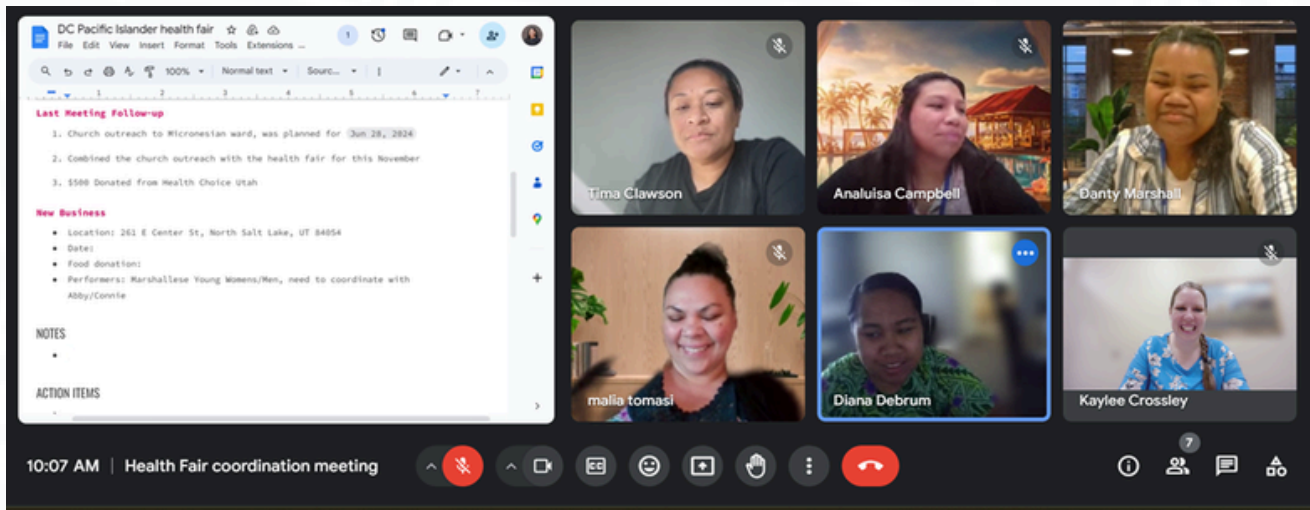


Photo: Top row (left to right): Tima Clawson, AnaLuisa Campbell, Danty Marshall  
Bottom row (left to right): Malia Tomasi, Diana Debrum, Kaylee (Crossley) Wachlin

The Workgroup's Logic Model can be found on page 17 of this report.

# PASIFIKA FACES IN DAVIS COUNTY





# Pacific Islanders in Davis County

Utah is home to the largest per capita population of PIs in the continental United States.

According to the 2020 Census, there are 59,247 NH and Other PIs in Utah, and Davis County has the fourth largest NHPI population in the state (5,596). Marshallese community members live throughout the county, with pockets in North Salt Lake, Woods Cross, Layton, and Clearfield.

PIs are excelling in every sector of Utah society, but some health challenges and disparities persist, such as rise in mental health, diabetes, obesity, birth outcomes, and decrease of vaccination rates in children and adolescents, to name a few. Key strengths include connectedness and willingness to help each other.



*Photo: Marshallese women cultural performance by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Marshallese Branch*

# Pacific Islanders in Davis County

## Cultural Considerations

- Preventative care is not something that is thought of culturally. On the islands, people go to the hospital for everything. Part of it is generational.
- People respect elders, listen to them more/use alternative options for healing.
- The mom and dad are respected and looked to for guidance/as a voice.
- Community members are more likely to trust people that they know/that work with them/that look like them.
- Evenings may be better for appointments (because men and women can come together).
- Vaccinations are seen as more important after the COVID-19 pandemic; vaccinations for younger populations have always been seen as important.

## Barriers to Receiving Care

The following barriers can impact access to care:

- Language assistance
- Transportation assistance
- Less self-representation
- Someone not looking like them
- Lack of confidence in navigating the healthcare system
- Mistrust due to racism or a lack of cultural awareness
- Education to know what is available
- Resources may exist, but people may not use them (Example: Medicaid card - people are not sure how to use it or what to do with it.)

# Highlights

Due to the newness of workgroup efforts and limited data, highlights feature successes related to tracking new measures to help establish baselines, trust-building and connection efforts, and improved coordination. Some key successes of the workgroup’s efforts by topic are listed below.

- **Connection to Health Insurance**

- The Compact of Free Association (COFA) enables citizens of the Marshall Islands to receive healthcare through Medicaid.
- Through a partnership with Midtown, 75 total COFA citizens have been enrolled in Medicaid!
- Qualifying families on Medicaid are able to access other programs, such as Baby Your Baby, Home Visiting, and WIC.



*Photo: Oscar Ames & Danty Marshall*

“Helping assist COFA (Compact of Free Association) citizens with their Medicaid enrollment process, with the collaboration with Oscar Ames from Midtown Community Health Center, has made a significant impact in helping these individuals access essential healthcare services through Medicaid. Through these efforts, we were able to enroll new moms and their babies to the WIC program and PDG (home visiting), and get their vaccinations up-to-date at our immunization clinic.”

-Danty Marshall, CHW

- **Access to Maternal Health Resources - Baby Baskets**

- Through a partnership with UPIHC and DCHD, 25 baby baskets and 2,483 diapers were delivered in 2023.
- In 2024, 28 baby baskets and 3,911 diapers were delivered through October.
- Malia Tomasi, a birth and postpartum doula with Manava Birth Services, has continued to facilitate delivery of baby baskets (end of 2024).

- **Access to Maternal Health Resources - Home Visiting**

- Workgroup members conduct home visits to make connections with new moms and provide resources as needed.
- DCHD’s home visiting program is free to all families with a child between the ages of 0-8 years old. Nurses provide well-child visits, and conduct developmental screenings, and postpartum depression screenings.
- 71 Davis County Pls received a home visit, postpartum screening, or help with a Baby Your Baby application from DCHD between October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023.

**KAJJITOK KEN EDDOKLAK EO AN AJIRI EO NEJUM?**

•••••

**EFREE** Ilo-moko ewor nurse ro renaaj jiban ikijan visiti waj bamle ko ewor nejier ajiri jen ke rej lotak non 8 aer yio, jekdroon ta ejjelak injuran ako jete jaan eo koj komane.

**NURSE RO EWOR AER PEPA REJ JIBAN IKIJAN:**

- Kakolkol ikijen an ajiri eo eddoklak
- Ejimour eo an ajiri & Kejibarok
- Jiban ko jen jukjukinbed in non bamle ko
- Malele ikijen uno non bobrae naninmej ko
- Jiban ikijen am kajiririki ajiri eo nejum
- Kakolkol ko ne emoj an kora eo kemour

**Davis COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

JIKAAN E QR CODE NE AKO CALLE 801-525-4960 IM KOMAN AM ABOINMEN

Home Visiting Flier in Marshallese

- **Access to Maternal Health Resources - WIC**

- 5.6% (579 people) of Davis County WIC participants identified as NHPI among those enrolled in between 2022 - 2024.
- Data from the State WIC Race/Ethnicity Report is shown in the following table for 2022 - 2024. This breakdown shows the total number of NHPI families who were enrolled in Davis County WIC at the beginning and end of each year.
- NHPI enrollment in Davis County WIC increased 58.4% from January 2022 to December 2024.

Month & Year	# of NHPIs enrolled in Davis County WIC
January 2022	149
December 2022	169
January 2023	173
December 2023	231
January 2024	232
December 2024	236

Davis County WIC Enrollment from the State WIC Race/Ethnicity Report

- **Resource Sharing Through Health Fairs Hosted During Annual Utah Pacific Islander Health Week (second week of November)**

- Utah Pacific Islander Health Week is held the second week in November.
- The first-ever Davis County Pacific Islander Health Fair was held on Saturday, November 12, 2022.
  - The purposes of the event included: helping PIs in Davis County access local resources; building trust among the PI community; promoting healthy living; and promoting family activities in Davis County.
  - Over 18 community agencies supported the event.
  - The following PI groups were represented: Fijian, Marshallese, Micronesian, Samoan, and Tongan.
  - Cultural performances were incorporated. One community member shared - "This gave us an opportunity to teach our daughters our culture."
  - Community connections were made. One community member shared, "We didn't know there were so many Pacific Islanders in Davis County!"
  - Free health screenings were offered.
  - Vaccines were available at the event.
  - Resource sharing continued after the event.



Photos: The First Davis County Pacific Islander Health Resource Fair

- A second fair was held on Saturday, November 9, 2024.
  - The focus areas for the event were: healthcare access and screening, maternal health, and mental health.
  - Over 20 community agencies supported the event.
  - Health screenings were offered; new glasses, baby baskets, and diapers were given; dental screenings were scheduled; vaccines were available.
  - Both community members and partners shared an increased awareness of local resources and agencies in Davis County.
- Partners who attended the health fairs were able to create new partnerships and nurture existing partnerships with UPIHC. This has helped with resource connection, such as referring communities to UTA, DCHD services, Intermountain Health, Head Start, Davis Behavioral Health, Midtown's clinic, and others.



Photos: The Second Davis County Pacific Islander Health Resource Fair

- **Connecting Generations to Cultural Traditions Through Performance**

- Some *Pasifika* children performed their first cultural performance(s) during the Davis County Pacific Islander health fairs.
  - In 2022, the young Tongan girls did their first Tongan “*tau'olunga*,” a solo cultural performance for special occasions.
  - In 2024, Tima’s oldest daughter, Brenna, performed her first Fijian dance, or *Meke*, accompanied by her maternal family’s cultural ceremony to validate the Fijian traditional first dance for the oldest member of the family or *ulumatua*.
- Through the partnership with UPIHC and DCHD, Davis County hosted its first dance/karaoke event for PI elders at the South Davis Senior Activity Center in November 2022.



Photos: Davis County Pacific Islander Health Resource Fairs and Karaoke Event

- **Improved Partnerships with Faith-based Organizations**

- Existing partnerships were nurtured with the following groups:
  - Marshallese Branch
  - Tongan Wards in Bountiful, Layton, and Roy
  - Samoan *Viola* Ward
- In 2024, a new partnership was established with the Micronesia Branch in Clearfield.
- Invitations were extended to other faith-based organizations to participate in the second health fair.

- **Sharing Community Voice Through Focus Group Participation**

- In 2022, DCHD hosted focus groups for underserved and underrepresented voices in Davis County. Through participating in the Marshallese Moms and Babies Workgroup, UPIHC learned about the focus groups and shared the information with its network. Through their efforts, PIs were recruited to attend the focus group. These qualitative data were crucial to know and understand the priority needs of our community to better serve Davis County residents.
- The [Davis County Community Equity Assessment](#) was released in 2023 and included focus group data and quotes. It is available on DCHD's Reports and Assessments webpage.

“We live in a collective culture, for the [Pacific] Islanders, we call it coconut wireless...Our marketing is awesome, naturally, organically, with diverse communities.”

- **Mental Health Supports**

- Preliminary data from the [Embrace Project Study](#), a community-based participatory research study conducted by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Health Equity (OHE) and the University of Utah (60 PI women in Utah participated; ended in September 2022) has shown that over half of participants ranked high in depression and anxiety.
- UPIHC's [Pacific Islander Mental Health Network](#) is available to all NHPs seeking mental well-being services from local NHPI providers. Community members can access support by filling out the Pacific Islander Mental Health Needs Form available on UPIHC's website, or by emailing the Mental Health Coordinator, Soa Mulitalo, [soa@upihc.org](mailto:soa@upihc.org).
- The DHHS [Maternal Mental Health Referral Network](#) is also available.
- Mental health data at the local level remains a gap that could be better addressed through future efforts.



- **Davis4Health Equity Forum**

- In 2024, Elina Fred, Chairwoman of UMW, participated in the Davis4Health Equity Forum as a panelist to discuss ways to connect to the NHPI communities locally.



Photo: Elina Fred "Fred" at the Equity Forum

- **Supporting Well-Being Through Mobile Food Pantries**

- Through connections with faith-based organization community champions, a Woods Cross mobile food pantry was started. As a result of the connections, UPIHC partnered with the Utah Food Bank (UFB) and has been hosting the mobile pantry in Woods Cross twice a month for over a year now (2023-2024).
- The connection from the mobile food pantry motivated a rugby team to partner with UPIHC on vaccinating over 70 NHPIs and other ethnic and racial communities (the majority of whom are residents in Davis County) within a year at the mobile vaccine clinics and hosted vaccine clinic site in North Salt Lake (administered by DCHD).

**Woods Cross Mobile Pantry +**  
Flu & Covid-19 Immunization Clinic

<b>THURS NOV 16</b>	<b>Need food assistance?</b> Visit our Mobile Food Pantry! We will provide a mixture of fridge, freezer and dry food items.
<b>THURS NOV 30</b>	Simply fill and sign our intake sheet, basic questions (No other documents needed).
<b>THURS DEC 14</b>	<b>Stay Protected!</b> Get your flu and/or covid-19 shots including boosters with our on-site immunization clinic.
<b>THURS DEC 28</b>	<b>10:00-11:30 AM</b> Until Supplies Last, First come first serve.
	<b>2064 S 800 W Woods Cross UT, 84087</b>

Questions? Contact Utah Food Bank at 801-978-2452  
Dates may be canceled in cases of extreme weather.  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

UTAH FOOD BANK Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition Davis COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mobile Food Pantry and Vaccine Event Flier

- **Access to Healthcare - Immunizations**

- DCHD administered 336 vaccines to the PI population through attending 12 mobile pantry events, the Davis County Pacific Islander Health Fair, and through DCHD's in-house clinic from March 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

# Acknowledgements

## A Look to the Future

Working together allows us to accomplish more than we could on our own. Though change may be small, its effects can impact future generations. Increasing opportunities for improved local data, continued collaboration with community partners and champions, and connection with our NHPI communities are vital to a healthier community for all people living in Davis County.

Komoltata, Fa'afetai, Mahalo, Malo, Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank You to the following community partner agencies and advocates for supporting the Marshallese Moms and Babies Workgroup's efforts in some way over the past three years!

211 Utah	Friends for Sight	Salais Counseling	Utah Food Bank
ABS Kids	Health Choice Utah	South Davis Communities That Care (CTC)	Utah Health Policy Project
Bountiful Food Pantry	Intermountain Health	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition (UPIHC)
Catholic Community Services	Manava Birth Services	The Fijian Girls Foundation	Utah Partners for Health
CLD3 Counseling	Midtown Community Health Center	United Micronesian Women (UMW)	Utah Transit Authority (UTA)
Davis Behavioral Health (DBH)	Molina Healthcare	University of Utah Health Plans	Vaimua
Davis Head Start	National Tongan American Society	University of Utah Pacific Islander Medical Student Association (PIMSA)	Waterford Upstart
Davis County Health Department	Open Doors	Utah Diaper Bank	Weber State University
Dr. Johnnie Cook	Pacific Island Knowledge 2 Action Resources (PIK2AR)	Utah Domestic Violence Coalition	Why Not Me Services

A special thanks to all the volunteers, performers and raffle prize contributors who supported Davis County Pacific Islander health fairs!

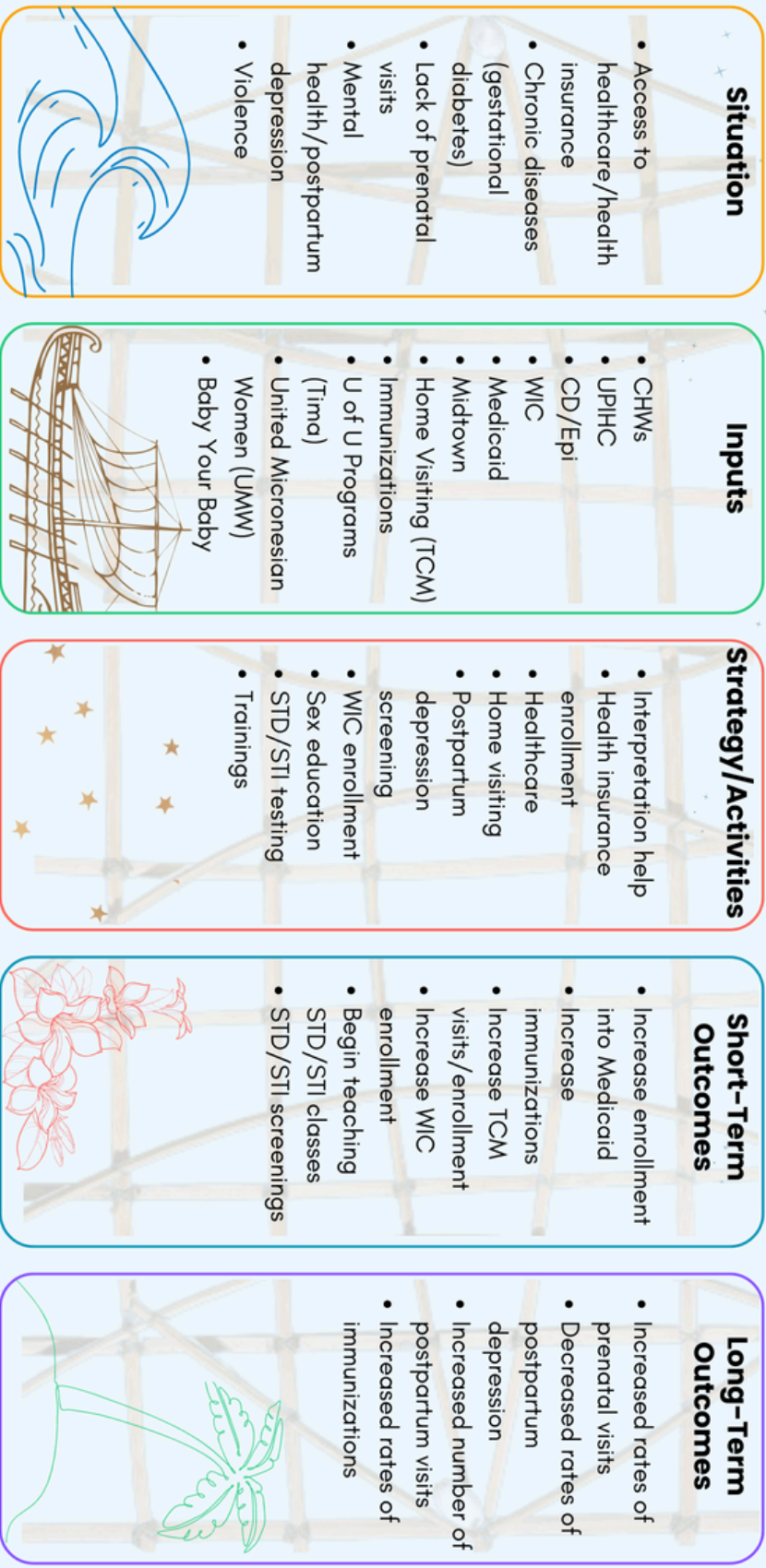
# Marshallese Moms & Babies

## Mothers Who Steer

Jined Kibed

### Our Mission:

To enrich the lives of Marshallese families & mothers in Davis County by promoting, increasing, and navigating health services and community resources.



### Our Goal:

Healthier moms and babies  
Ejmour eo ilo jinen qjiri eo