

GRANT ANALYSIS FORM OPERATING & CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Department/Division: Health Department/Family and Community Health BranchContact Person & Phone No: Rosamaria Martinez 414-309-7335

Category of Request

☐ New Grant☒ Grant ContinuationPrevious Council File No. 240900☐ Change in Previously Approved GrantPrevious Council File No. N/AProject/Program Title: Maternal Health Innovation Project – Paternal Child Health: Enhancing Fatherhood Servicing to Improve Birth OutcomesGrantor Agency: WI Department of Health Services (DHS) Division of Public Health (DPH)Grant Application Date: _____ Anticipated Award Date: 10/1/2025

1. Description of Grant Project/Program (Include Target Locations and Populations):

The Maternal Health Innovation Projects focus on promoting and executing innovation in maternal health service delivery through addressing critical gaps in direct clinical care, workforce, partnership and/or community engagement. The project goal is to enhance the direct services we provide to fathers/partners while developing our staff's skillsets and capacity to genuinely, equitably and competently serve fathers/partners. This grant is a 4-year grant from October 1st, 2024, to September 30th, 2028. October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 is year 2 of the grant.

Research shows that paternal involvement during pregnancy is linked to numerous positive maternal health outcomes, including reduced risk of maternal depression, improved access to healthcare services, better maternal nutrition, fewer birth complications, increased likelihood of full-term pregnancies, and higher rates of breastfeeding. Given the incredible impact fathers can make in maternal and child health, we sought out a sole-source community-based non-profit provider "Melanated Daddy", specifically the *Dad Doula University Program* that provides a truly innovative approach to building the health of the birthing community. The provider is a certified full spectrum doula, certified community health worker, and longtime trusted messenger and advocate in the City of Milwaukee. The Dad Doula program is a uniquely curated workshop designed to support families by creating space for the non-birthing parents to prepare for the journey of parenthood. Each session is designed to provide participants with a set of tools, strategies and information to be intentional about family planning and building. The program focuses on building social emotional awareness, restorative practice, co-parenting skills and family pre-natal preparation and postpartum highlights.

We plan to take a two-pronged approach with this funding – enhancing the direct services we provide to fathers/partners while developing our staff's skillsets and capacity to genuinely, equitably and competently serve fathers/partner.

2. Relationship to City-Wide Strategic Goals and Departmental Objectives:

The City of Milwaukee has dedicated focus on providing intervention/prevention around infant mortality and its impact to City residents. There are ongoing disparities in those most impacted by infant mortality, particularly birthing people of color. The City of Milwaukee declared Racism as a Public Health crisis in 2019 and the Milwaukee Health Department's Strategic Plan incorporates an anti-racist lens throughout our practice and policies Department-wide.

In the maternal and child health space, MHD continues to assess our existing programs' effectiveness in birth outcomes and a prevailing gap revolved around how we service fathers in a maternal-heavy realm. We want to invest into the underutilized resource in fathers on maternal and child health; building inclusion and bolstering the importance of fathers in the health of babies and birthing people.

3. Need for Grant Funds and Impact on Other Departmental Operations (Applies only to Programs):

This grant requires no city-match and will fund the subgrantee's contractual costs, promotional materials and funds awarded to us to send targeted staff to the Fulfilling the Promise Conference in 2026.

4. Results Measurement/Progress Report (Applies only to Programs):

Throughout the course of this grant we will be monitoring the following objectives and goals:

- Number of fathers/partners enrolled in Dad Doula cohorts (goal of 100 fathers enrolled in year 1)
- Evaluation of birth outcomes of clients enrolled in MHD programs that participate in the Dad Doula Cohorts. Data to be considered includes infant/maternal loss, birthing experiences, etc.
 - o At least 80% of enrolled families that completed the Dad Doula cohorts express increased confidence, goal attainment, increased confidence in understanding pregnancy and parenting (qualitative and quantitative pre and post surveys and interviews)
- EFM/DAD/BOMB to incorporate at least 1 new strategy into workflows/practice to better incorporate fatherhood engagement, navigating co-parenting relationships, etc. (may be uniform across all programs or individualized).

5. Grant Period, Timetable and Program Phase-Out Plan:

6/15/04

10/01/2024-09/30/2028

6. Provide a list of Subgrantees:
Joshua Zawadi (Liston) and Symphony Zawadi – Conscious Community Curators (Melanated Daddy/Dad Doula University Programs are under this umbrella)

- 7 If Possible, complete Grant Budget Form and attach to back.
See attached