
The HOPEline



March 2026

Moving Georgia's Maternal Health Forward, Together

2026 Mini-Grant Recipients

HOPE for Georgia Moms unites maternal health leaders, care providers, and decision-makers throughout Georgia to turn shared commitment into enduring system-level improvements, so every mom not only survives, but thrives. In 2026, our focus includes maternal heart health, respectful care, year-long postpartum support, expanded mental health access and better use of maternal health data.

Explore our 2026 initiatives below to see how HOPE is working together to make a difference across Georgia.

Mother's Safety Bracelet & Care Kit Project with Tanner Medical Foundation

This project helps keep new mothers safe by making sure they can easily check for heart and blood pressure problems after giving birth. Every postpartum patient will receive a medical alert bracelet that shows they delivered within the past year, so emergency teams can give faster, informed care. Patients who had high blood pressure, diabetes, or other risk factors during pregnancy will also get a home blood pressure monitor with simple instructions on when to call their doctor or go to the emergency room. The project also reminds patients that they have Medicaid coverage for 12 months after birth so they can get follow-up care. Our goal is to help mothers catch warning signs early, get care quickly, and prevent serious health problems during the first year after delivery.

Georgia Maternal Care Blueprint Project- Perinatal Innovation Partners

With support from HOPE, community members, doulas, doctors, and researchers came together to understand why many parents in Georgia face serious health problems during pregnancy and after birth. This new six-month project takes what the group learned and turns it into easy-to-use tools that can help improve care. One tool is a simple computer model that shows where the health system is breaking down, such as missed follow-up appointments, lack of mental health support, or gaps in care after birth. The other tool is a step-by-step plan that tells clinics and community groups what actions to take first, how to improve trust, and how to make sure parents get care throughout the full year after giving birth. Together, these tools help health teams work better, catch problems earlier, and support Georgia families in a safer, more connected, and more respectful way.



Mothers Legacy Wellness Circles through I am Legacy PTCA

The Mother's Legacy Wellness Circles program supports new mothers in Albany and Dougherty County during their first year after birth. For six months, moms can join monthly group circles, get private check-ins, and receive help finding services they may need. The program teaches about healing after birth, managing stress, and staying healthy. It also offers a safe, welcoming space where Black mothers can share their experiences, feel understood, and get support from other moms and trained staff. The goal is to reduce isolation, catch health concerns early, and make sure every mother feels respected, supported, and cared for.



Bringing PEACE Home: Postpartum Care and Support with Friends of Refugees

The Bringing Peace Home: Postpartum Care and Support home-visiting program helps new refugee and immigrant mothers during the first weeks after birth. A team of doctors, midwives, and postpartum doulas visits families in their homes to check on the mother and baby, support breastfeeding, and look for any health problems. Because many mothers may have trouble with transportation or English, bringing care to the home makes it easier and safer for them to get the help they need. The team also understands the families' cultures and can give support that feels respectful and comfortable. This program helps mothers feel heard, lowers stress, and makes it easier to get care early if a problem begins.



[Read more](#)

Initiative Update

The Maternal Cardiac Program at Northeast Georgia Health System helps protect moms who may be at risk for heart problems during pregnancy and after birth. Heart conditions are one of the leading causes of maternal deaths in Georgia, and many can be prevented with early screening and close follow up. Through this program, moms receive screening, monitoring and referrals to heart specialists when needed. The program uses proven best practices from the national AIM Cardiac Conditions bundle to help doctors and nurses recognize heart symptoms early and connect moms to the right care.

INITIATIVES UPDATE

Maternal Cardiac Program at Northeast Georgia Health System

August 2023–December 2025

→ 12,346 moms screened

→ 451 positive screens

→ 3.65% positivity rate



HOPE FOR GEORGIA MOMS



These screenings help find heart concerns early so moms can get the care they need as soon as possible.

[Learn more about our initiatives](#)

Maternal Peer Support Training

HOPE is supporting the creation of a Maternal Peer Support certification program through Georgia Council for Recovery.

So far, we have achieved:

- All curriculum modules have been completed, and the academy's training manuals are currently being finalized.
- Applications opened March 2 and will close March 20, with scoring completed by March 25.
- Top applicants will be interviewed on April 7.
- The first academy will take place May 25–29, with plans to train up to 14 Maternal Peer Support Specialists.

Applications Now Open

In partnership with the Georgia Council for Recovery, HOPE for Georgia Moms is supporting the development of a new training program designed to equip peer specialists to support mothers during the perinatal period. This initiative addresses the critical need for expanded mental health and substance use

support for women and families, with a focus on perinatal mood disorders and co-occurring substance use challenges.

The day focused on elevating lived experience, strengthening statewide connections and engaging directly with policymakers to advance meaningful change.

The discussions and advocacy efforts reflected the realities facing families across Georgia and helped move the conversation forward.

Thank you to everyone who showed up, spoke up and helped shape the future of maternal and infant health in our state.




MATERNAL PEER SUPPORT ACADEMY

Five-Day Maternal Peer Support Training for Certified Peer Specialist in Mental Health/Addictive Disease

This immersive training prepares Certified Peer Specialists to support mothers and families through a lens of lived experience, empathy, and culturally responsive care.

Because every mother deserves understanding, respect, and support.



Call for Abstracts- AWHONN GA



Now Open!
**2026 AWHONN Georgia
Section Conference**

*"Hatching Hope: Nurturing Mothers, Babies,
and the Nurses Who Guide Them"*

Dates: August 23–25, 2026

**Location: Jekyll Island Convention
Center.**

[Submit Abstracts Here](#)

Conference organizers are inviting healthcare professionals to share the ideas, innovations, and connections that are helping advance maternal and newborn care. Submissions are encouraged from those who have developed new approaches, improved clinical practice, advanced research, strengthened leadership, or created meaningful progress in education and patient care.

AWHONN membership is not required to present.

Important deadlines:

- **Presentation applications:** Due **May 1, 2026**
- **Poster applications:** Due **August 1, 2026**

This is an opportunity to highlight the work you and your teams are doing to support mothers, babies, and the nurses who care for them.

Important Dates for 2026

Mark your calendars with these upcoming dates for 2026.

Date	Event	Time	Who
Mar 24, 2026 (Tues)	Quarterly Maternal Health Task Force Meeting	12-1:30 PM	Task Force
Jun 24, 2026 (Wed)	Quarterly Maternal Health Task Force Meeting	12-1:30 PM	Task Force
Sep 22, 2026 (Tues)	Quarterly Maternal Health Task Force Meeting	12-1:30 PM	Task Force
Dec 9, 2026 (Wed)	Quarterly Maternal Health Task Force Meeting	12-1:30 PM	Task Force
Summer 2026	Task Force 2-Day Retreat	In person	Task Force + Guests
Jan 6, 2026 (Tues)	Maternal Health Data	1-2:00 PM	Subcommittee
Jan 16, 2026 (Fri)	Community: Advocacy, Respectful Care, and Equity	12-1:00 PM	Subcommittee
Jan 20, 2026 (Tues)	Advisory Council	12:30-2 PM	Chairs
Jan 26, 2026 (Mon)	Clinical Care Initiatives and Equitable Experiences	2-3:00 PM	Subcommittee
Feb 3, 2026 (Tues)	Maternal Health Data	1-2:00 PM	Subcommittee
Feb 16, 2026 (Mon)	Clinical Care Initiatives and Equitable Experiences	2-3:00 PM	Subcommittee
Feb 20, 2026 (Fri)	Community: Advocacy, Respectful Care, and Equity	12-1:00 PM	Subcommittee

Inaugural Black Maternal Health Conference

Join us for the Inaugural Black Maternal Health Conference on March 21, 2026, at Fort Valley State University.

This free, community-focused event will bring together speakers, panelists, and vendors to address critical maternal health challenges, reduce disparities, and strengthen support for Black mothers and families across Georgia.

HOPE for Georgia Moms is proud to serve as a sponsor, supporting efforts to improve outcomes, expand access to care, and advance maternal health equity statewide. Registration is free, but space is limited.

REGANIZE DISPARITIES. DISMANTLE HEALTH INEQUITIES. IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES.

It Takes a Village
Maternal Health Expo

**INAUGURAL
BLACK
MATERNAL
HEALTH
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 21, 2026
C.W. PETTIGREW CENTER
1005 STATE UNIVERSITY DR
FT. VALLEY, GA 31030
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

FREE BUT
REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

Georgia is among the top in the nation with worst maternal mortality rates
85% Preventable | 57% African Americans

Speakers | Panelists | Vendors
Addressing critical maternal health
issues and promoting community
wellness

FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
HOPE for Georgia Moms
Piedmont

Save the Date: Annual Retreat

Save the date for HOPE for Georgia Moms' annual Task Force Retreat.

Dates: July 9-10

Location: Lanier Islands

Time: 1 p.m. start on July 9

Hotel stays on July 8 and July 9 will be covered by HOPE if needed.

Member Spotlight

Would you like to be featured in our newsletters and our social media accounts? We are now taking submissions for member spotlights. Fill out the form on our website to be featured.

Member Spotlight

Submit Your Events

Be sure to share your organization's events with us by submitting them to our team [here](#).

Find a full list of upcoming community events on our website.

See events

Meet the Team



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Learn more about our dedicated team by visiting our [website](#).

