



## THE VICE PRESIDENT

April 16, 2024

I am honored to extend my warmest regards to the leaders, partners, and beneficiaries of the West Side Healthy Parents & Babies Program as you convene to celebrate your public launch.

The creation of this crucial program places West Side United, Lurie Children's Hospital, and the Chicago Westside Branch of the NAACP at the forefront of innovation in the fight to improve the health of mothers and infants. By facilitating access to essential resources, including prenatal and postpartum care, you are all playing a vital role in supporting our Nation's most vulnerable and underserved communities. Your work is creating an invaluable model for other organizations, cities, and states to follow.

President Biden and I stand with you in your efforts to decrease the rates of maternal and infant mortality, improve experiences during and after pregnancy, and bring the Black maternal health crisis to the forefront of our Nation's awareness. In addition to issuing a nationwide call to action, we released the first-ever White House-led Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis—a whole-of-government approach to combating maternal mortality and morbidity. Through the policies set forth in our blueprint, we are reducing disparities in maternal health care by supporting States in growing and diversifying their perinatal workforce and bolstering the voices of communities of color to better understand and address pregnancy-related death.

To better provide all women with the care they need and deserve, I also called on States to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from 2 months to 12. I am happy to share that 45 States have now done so, benefiting millions of women and families across the Nation.

Today, we take time to honor your work and thank you for your ongoing commitment. I am so grateful for your engagement on this issue and look forward to continuing to work together to improve maternal health and early childhood outcomes for all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kamala Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.