



July 27, 2022

Sherita Bullock
Executive Director
Healthy Baby Network
693 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14607

Dear Ms. Bullock,

On behalf of Common Ground Health, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support for your application to the Monroe County American Rescue Plan Funding Opportunity. The grant focus of creating infrastructure and services for vulnerable (medically, socially, historically, and environmentally) populations targeting Black birthing families and men with histories that include incarceration with a collaborative, person-centered, and culturally responsive approach is needed in our community at this time. Each of the three Bring Monroe Back Goals are addressed in your application and we support your efforts to respond to them by working to prevent Black Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and expanding the services in your Fatherhood Program to create innovations for Reentry, a multi-agency collaborative approach, and an intergenerational mentorship program with stipends.

Common Ground Health's mission is to bring focus to community health issues via data analysis, community engagement and solution implementation through community collaboration and partnership. We bring together leaders from health care, business, education, and other sectors to find common ground on health challenges and to prioritize collaborative solutions informed by the region's most comprehensive health data. Co-creating culturally responsive solutions in partnership with members of historically marginalized communities is the foundation to our work. Our data analyses have shown the disparities that exist for black families, particularly as it relates to Black Maternal Morbidity, and underscores the importance of the proposed work

We have partnered with Healthy Baby Network over many years to share insights on perinatal outcomes in Monroe County and will continue to do so in the future and over the course of this project period if requested. As a HBN community partner, Common Ground Health believes in their ability to plan, strategize, and execute this work centered on the parents engaged in the programs. HBN brings a unique bench-strength and perspective to their approach that has served the parents they work with and our community well over the 26 years the organization has operated. We stand ready to collaborate with them, in support of their work, and wholeheartedly support their application for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade S. Norwood", written over a thin horizontal line.

Wade S. Norwood, CEO
Common Ground Health