



TARA
HEALTH FOUNDATION

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine:
Workshop on Advancing Maternal Health Equity and Reducing Maternal Mortality

Research and Funding Needs to Increase Knowledge Generation and Improve Maternal Health Outcomes

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Definitions to ground the conversation

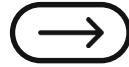
Birth Equity is the assurance of the conditions of **optimal births for all people** with a willingness to **address racial and social inequities in a sustained effort.**

- National Birth Equity Collaborative

Birth Justice is a movement that believes **when birthing people recognize their innate power to make the best health decisions for themselves and their families during all stages of the pregnancy, birth, and the post-birth period, that power will have a transformational impact on their family and community.**

- Voices for Birth Justice as derived from Black Women Birthing Justice, Southern Birth Justice Network, and SisterSong

As a funder, this work starts with three paradigm shifts



Institutional Reframe

Power dynamics through dominant cultures within institutions create challenges for advancing any work. The willingness to do the internal work, address blind spots and change processes has an impact on the deployment of resources, strength of collaborations, and shifting power and assets to the field

Fund the Paradigm Shift

What, how, who, and why?
It is critical to support work that moves expansively from 'diversity,' clinical outcomes, and death to include what is working, addresses root causes, and builds power. This is still novel and means trusting, listening to, and amplifying new leaders and messengers

Economic Justice

Under-resourcing is an issue that impacts all of the conditions in which care is accessed and provided. Giving without restriction builds power in critical ways, and must be reflected through support of Black and Brown people and their families, as well as leaders and organizations in the field

Research Justice is the framework that informs the funding approach

Self Determination

Data and research are currencies that build economic, cultural, and political power - Sovereignty is an outcome

Racism as a factor

Care quality, outcomes, funding, research priorities, etc., are inextricably linked to systemic racism

Capacity is Key

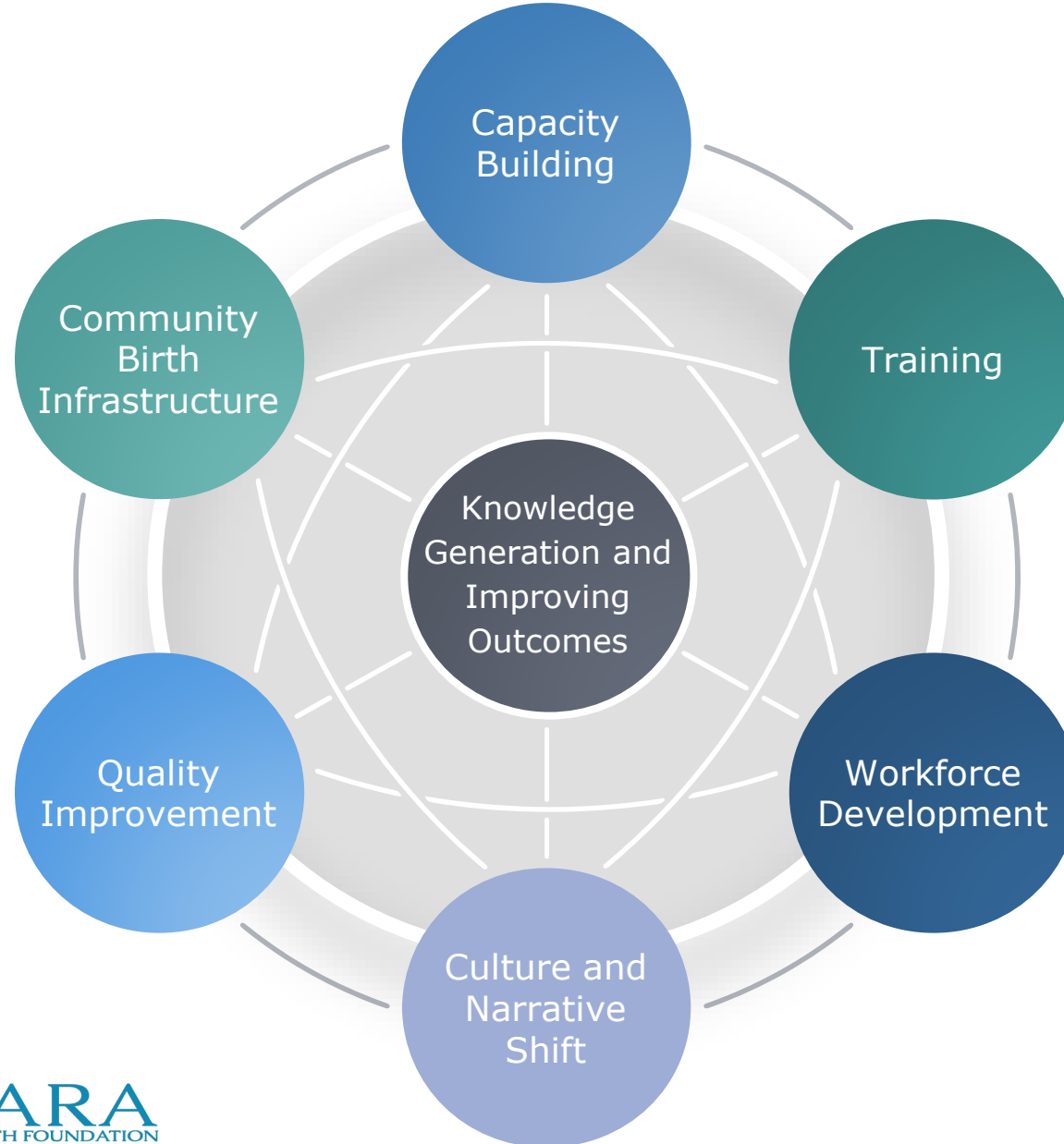
Resources for capacity and infrastructure building are necessary for long-term change and impact



Research Justice is Birth Justice

- What is the care and experience that people want?
- Who is providing that care and experience?
- Who has access and power in the receipt and provision of that care and experience?

In practice, this is an expansive model that reflects the gaps, opportunities, and interconnectedness of issues along the continuum of research



Partners drive these priorities and lead the way

Currently, the work spans local pilots to national academic research and includes these partners:

- Birth Center Equity
- **SACRED Birth Study**
- **PRIORITY Study**
- California Breastfeeding Coalition
- BIPOC Aspiring Midwives
- **Shades of Blue Project**
- Diversity Uplifts
- **BeLoved Birth: Black Centering**
- Magnolia Mother's Trust
- **IRTH**
- Center for Birth Equity and Innovation
- MS Urban League



Thank you!

List of partners and projects: [Birth Equity Portfolio](#)

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