

The Big Push for Midwives Campaign

Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) are the only U.S. midwives whose educational standards require them to undergo specialized clinical training in out-of-hospital settings as a condition of national certification.

Increasing numbers of families in the U.S. – whether because of religious, cultural, financial, or personal reasons – are seeking a safe and affordable alternative to standard obstetrical care and rigid hospital policies and practices. But this sharp increase in out-of-hospital births also underscores the urgent need to make sure that midwives in every state who are attending births in private homes and freestanding birth centers have met the educational and training standards as CPMs to qualify them experts in out-of-hospital maternity care.

The Big Push for Midwives educates about the need for regulation and license laws for CPMs in all 50 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. In states where community midwives are regulated through licensure, as well as fully integrated into the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Continuum of Care, those states provide better access to care and better outcomes.



The Big Push supports the courageous leaders of state coalitions of midwives and consumers. From public education and advocacy for CPM legislation, to licensure laws implementation, to full integration of CPMs into a community's RMNCH Continuum of Care, the Big Push holds a new best-practices, evidence-based vision of U.S. maternity care: better outcomes for moms and babies and expanded access to CPMs and the full range of birth options.

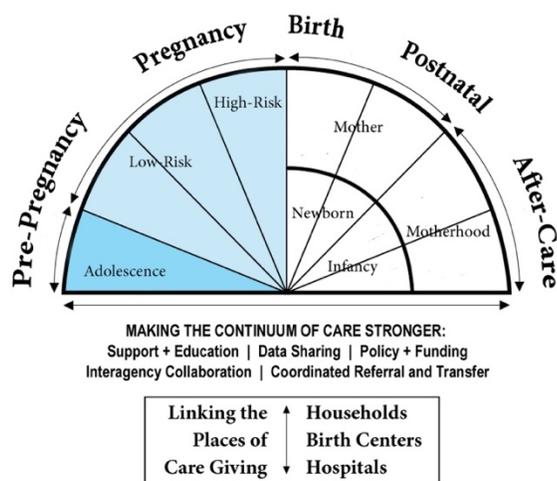
PushSummit 2019 | The Big Push for Midwives gathered change agents from the U.S. birth community. Together, these veteran birth activists – midwives and consumers – developed two strategic priorities to bring CPMs out from underground economies and fully integrate them into the RMNCH Continuum of Care in all states and territories:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Regulate + License CPMs in every U.S. State + Territory

OBJECTIVE: Secure regulation and license laws for Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in all 50 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Fully Integrate CPMs into the U.S. RMNCH Continuum of Care

OBJECTIVE: Bring regions and communities closer together in order to fully integrate CPMs into the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Continuum of Care.



What is the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Continuum of Care?

Defined by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health—administered by the World Health Organization—the **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Continuum of Care** includes integrated service delivery for mothers and children from pre-pregnancy to delivery, the immediate postnatal period, and childhood. Such care can be provided in communities by CPMs, and through outpatient services, clinics and other health facilities, including freestanding birth centers. The Continuum of Care recognizes that safe childbirth is critical to the health of both the woman and the newborn child, and that a healthy start in life is an essential step towards a sound childhood and a productive life. https://www.who.int/pmnch/knowledge/topics/continuum_of_care/en/

What are the dimensions and importance of the U.S. RMNCH Continuum of Care?

- The 1st dimension of the Continuum of Care is TIME** – Connect caregiving across the Continuum of Care for maternal, newborn and child health: includes pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, childbirth, early days/years of life.
- The 2nd dimension of the Continuum of Care is PLACE** – Connect the places of caregiving to reduce maternal, newborn, and child deaths: can also reduce costs by allowing greater efficiency, increase uptake and provide opportunities for promoting related healthcare elements (e.g. postpartum/postnatal and newborn care).