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'Where's My Midwife?' Map Links Midwives to Pregnant People *An Offering by The Big Push for Midwives Campaign*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – The Big Push for Midwives Campaign today announced it has launched the new **Where's My Midwife?** community mapping tool (<https://wheresmymidwife.ushahidi.io>) to help connect midwives trained in out-of-hospital birth with people whose babies may need to be born in out-of-hospital settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent weeks, reports show the demand for home birth has increased dramatically.

While a complete formal contact directory of midwives in the U.S. does not exist, the Big Push has activated its PushState network of midwives to help families, including those who planned a hospital birth, but who do not want to go to an overwhelmed hospital crowded with COVID-19 patients or be forced to give birth alone.

The new crowdmap provides visibility on where out-of-hospital midwifery care may be available to pregnant people. Midwives are invited to submit a report to show their location in the PushNation, describe their credentials, license status, and the cities and counties they serve, as well as share their contact information and other helpful information. Pregnant people can review the map to see midwives near them. Only healthy, low-risk pregnancies are candidates for out-of-hospital birth with midwives who still have capacity to provide maternity care in private homes and freestanding birth centers.

The Big Push is requesting national support for this important work to help spread the word to U.S. midwives who are willing and able to participate, asking them to submit a report on the new **Where's My Midwife?** crowdmap. During this difficult and dangerous time, midwives are taking extra safety precautions to safeguard their clients and themselves. The Big Push has created a "landing page of landing pages" for home birth midwife resources during the COVID-19 pandemic at <http://pushformidwives.org>.

U.S. States and the Legal Practice of Midwifery

In the 15 U.S. states and several territories where CPMs are not yet legally authorized to practice, there may be licensed CPMs from neighboring states may be available to provide care to pregnant people. On March 27, 2020, New York Governor Mario Cuomo issued an [Executive Order](#) to allow midwives licensed and in current good standing in any U.S. state or Canadian province to practice in New York State without civil or criminal penalty related to lack of licensure. A midwife licensed in another state, including a CPM, may practice midwifery in New York for the duration of the executive order, right now through April 26, for the purpose of coping with or aiding in coping with the disaster.

The Birth Rights Bar Association (BRBA), in its [analysis](#) of Governor Cuomo's order, advises that "[t]o start practicing under this order, we recommend that midwives either in the border areas or 'in wait' throughout the state notify the state proactively that they are working pursuant to the order."

(more)

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In addition, BRBA recommends other states and territories take a similar approach to Governor's Cuomo order so that available midwives can assist in addressing the heightened needs of pregnant and laboring people created by the pandemic.

The Big Push concurs with BRBA that New York State's Executive Order "should go further to include credentialed midwives who are not currently licensed. Credentialed midwives in the U.S. include the Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), the Certified Midwife (CM) and the Certified Professional Midwife (CPM). The CPM is the only midwifery credential that requires knowledge about and experience in out-of-hospital settings, making them uniquely qualified providers during this time. Many CPMs have encountered discrimination or exclusion from licensure despite being qualified by their training and education."

BACKGROUND ON CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIVES (CPMs)

The Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential was developed in the late 1980s and was first issued in 1994 by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) to midwives with specialized training and expertise in providing safe, skilled maternity care in community birth settings. 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.

In U.S. states where CPMs are regulated through licensure, as well as fully integrated into the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Continuum of Care, families enjoy better access to care and better outcomes than in states where CPMs are either unregulated or forbidden to practice. In U.S. states and territories where CPMs are not legally authorized to practice, they are at risk of criminal prosecution for practicing medicine or nursing without a license, which drives the practice of midwifery underground and creates barriers to access for women seeking maternity care.

BACKGROUND ON THE BIRTH RIGHTS BAR ASSOCIATION

The [Birth Rights Bar Association](#) (BRBA) promotes the rights of birthing people: physical liberty, bodily integrity, autonomy, privacy, due process, equal protection, religious liberty, and informed consent. In order to support birthing people, BRBA also protects the right of midwives to practice their profession.

BACKGROUND ON THE BIG PUSH FOR MIDWIVES CAMPAIGN

Launched in 2008, the [Big Push for Midwives Campaign](#) 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 CPMs are regulated through licensure, as well as fully integrated into the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Continuum of Care, those families enjoy better access to care and better outcomes than in states where CPMs are either unregulated or forbidden to practice. 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. [Donations can be made to the Big Push](#) to support increasing access to more birth options, CPMs, and out-of-hospital birth and maternity care. The Big Push is a fiscally sponsored project of the Sustainable Markets Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) organization in New York, NY.

The newly launched **Where's My Midwife?** crowdmap enjoys the support of the following organizations: [Birth Monopoly](#), [Citizens for Midwifery](#), [The Midwives Alliance of North America \(MANA\)](#), [The National Association of Certified Professional Midwives \(NACPM\)](#), and the [North American Registry of Midwives \(NARM\)](#).