

# PushSummit 2019

## The Big Push for Midwives Campaign



At PushSummit 2019, the Big Push for Midwives Campaign gathered change agents from the U.S. birth community. These veteran birth activists represent midwives and consumers, and together they are pushing for the regulated and fully integrated practice of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in every U.S. State and Territory.

**The Big Push for Midwives is a national campaign to 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.** 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 for Midwives Campaign supports the courageous leaders of state coalitions of midwives and consumers, who are building effective public education and legislative campaigns to pass CPM legislation, implementing new licensure laws, and fully integrating CPMs into their community's RMNCH Continuum of Care. The Big Push holds a new vision of U.S. maternity care: better outcomes for moms and babies, and expanded access to community midwives and the full range of birth options.

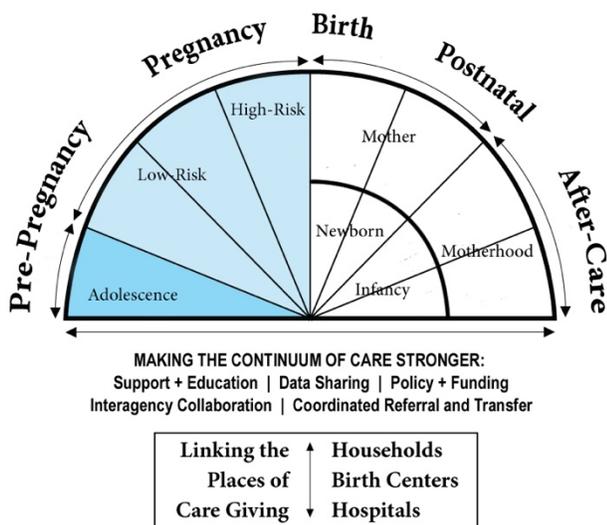
The Big Push for Midwives Campaign has named two strategic pillars to bring community midwives out from underground economies in some states and fully integrate them into the RMNCH Continuum of Care in others.

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 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 PILLAR 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, which is administered by the World Health Organization, the "Continuum of Care" for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) includes integrated service delivery for mothers and children from pre-pregnancy to delivery, the immediate postnatal period, and childhood. Such care is provided by families and communities, by community midwives, through outpatient services, clinics and other health facilities, which in the U.S. includes freestanding birth centers and hospitals. 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/](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 caregiving and link the various levels of home, community, and health facilities to reduce maternal, newborn, and child deaths: important because this 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).