

## **Frequently Asked Questions for LA County Black Birth Workers Enrichment Fund (2025)** **Applicants & Recipients**

1. **When will the support fund be launched and start accepting applications?**
  - We are thrilled to share that the 2025 application cycle opens on March 20, 2025, and will close on April 11th, 2025 at 11:59pm PST.
  
2. **What are the criteria for a submission to the Black Birth Workers (BBW) Enrichment Fund in 2025?**
  - Must be Black-identifying
  - Reside in Los Angeles County
  - Currently and actively serving (*or aspiring to*) the Los Angeles County birthing community (people who are thinking about becoming pregnant, families who are currently pregnant or pursuing fertility support, and those who are postpartum)
  - Align with Maternal Mental Health NOW's [values](#) and serve as a champion for Black perinatal mental health care
  - Did not already receive funds from the 2023 BBW Enrichment Fund Pilot (*we invite you to apply next application cycle!*)
  
3. **How do you define a birth worker?**
  - We define a birth worker as anyone who supports folks mentally, emotionally, physically, or spiritually along the reproductive spectrum, including but not limited to doulas, mental health professionals, lactation consultants and educators, home visitors, nurses, midwives, physicians, advocates, etc.
  
4. **I am not a Birth Worker yet, but I aspire to be one. Can I still apply?**
  - Yes! You may apply to utilize the funds for education and training to become a birth worker.
  
5. **How much money may I apply for and for what purposes?**
  - We are offering a flat rate of \$400.00 for any of the following purposes: Education & Training, Personal Expenses, or Self-Care Expenses. You may allocate the funds in whichever way is the most restorative and supportive to you.
  
6. **What is the payment structure of this Enrichment Fund?**
  - If your application is approved, you will be asked to submit an invoice for \$400.00 (an invoice template will be provided) to [invoices@maternalmentalhealthnow.org](mailto:invoices@maternalmentalhealthnow.org). In order to receive payment, you will need to complete a W9 and EFT form using this [link](#). Payments will be made by electronic fund transfer and should be received within 2 weeks of invoice and form submission.  
  
If current life circumstances prevent you from participating in this payment structure, please reach out to [bbw\\_fund@maternalmentalhealthnow.org](mailto:bbw_fund@maternalmentalhealthnow.org) to request accommodations.
  
7. **When will applications be reviewed and approved/ denied?**
  - Applications for the 2025 application cycle will close on Friday, April 11th at 11:59 pm PT. MMHN will begin to review and will notify applicants of the approval or denial via email by Monday, May 5, 2025.
  
8. **I have received an approval on my application, what are the next steps?**

Congratulations! Please submit an invoice for the amount that was approved to [invoices@maternalmentalhealthnow.org](mailto:invoices@maternalmentalhealthnow.org) and complete a W9 and EFT form using this [link](#). Please provide corresponding documentation within 30 days of fund recipient notification for timely processing. Payments will be made by electronic fund transfer and should be received within 2 weeks of invoice and form submission. If accommodations were made, we will be in touch about



next steps.

**9. My application was not approved this application cycle. May I re-apply?**

- Yes, you may! If your application was not approved and you are still in need of support, we encourage you to re-submit your application when the Enrichment Fund re-launches.

**10. When should I expect to receive the requested funds?**

- Currently, Maternal Mental Health NOW is fiscally sponsored by Community Partners, therefore, the payment procedure and timeline are based on their current processes. We expect funds will be received via electronic fund transfer within 2 weeks of submission of invoice, W9, and EFT form. Unfortunately, we are unable to expedite payments on behalf of Community Partners.

**11. My request for funds is time-sensitive due to a training, bill due date, etc.**

- Unfortunately, we are unable to rush the disbursement of funds as we are coordinating with our fiscal sponsor, Community Partners, for the award process. We kindly ask that you plan accordingly in regard to bill and tuition payment deadlines.

**12. I have additional questions, who can I reach out to?**

- Please email us at [bbw\\_fund@maternalmentalhealthnow.org](mailto:bbw_fund@maternalmentalhealthnow.org) with any questions or for general support.

**13. May I provide feedback on the application and award process?**

- Yes, absolutely! We are committed to structuring the Enrichment Fund to be equitable. We greatly appreciate any time you dedicate to sharing your thoughts and feedback on the Black Birth Workers Enrichment Fund.

A survey link will be sent to all applicants via email after decisions are made in May 2025.