

## **Background**

Philadelphia maternal and infant mortality rates are significantly higher than national averages. Black birthing people in Philadelphia are four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white counterparts. Chronic stress has been identified as a leading cause of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.

## **Objective**

Improve health by reducing stress through delivery of legal services and emergency funds.

## **Methods**

The FAIR Project is a partnership between the Health, Education, and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership (HELP:MLP), National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, and Public Health Management Corporation providing legal services and monetary support to families enrolled in maternal-child home visiting programs. Home visitors screen the 4000 participating families for legal needs and refer to the FAIR project where they are funneled to the legal team or the Family Support Fund based on identified needs. HELP:MLP conducts trainings, program evaluation, and tracks process and outcomes data.

## **Results**

In the first year of the partnership, home visitors conducted 681 screenings, 86% of which identified at least one legal, social, or financial need. 1135 legal matters were addressed for 556 participants. The legal team's financial return to families was \$533,796, which includes the financial benefits of eviction prevention, public benefits, and utility services.

The Family Support Fund distributed over \$450,000 to families through direct funds and concrete supports.

Participant satisfaction was collected through anonymous surveys:

- 97% of participants strongly agree or agree that legal services decreased their stress; 95% strongly agree or agree that legal services improved their health
- 94% of participants strongly agree or agree that financial support decreased their stress

## **Conclusion**

The FAIR Project successfully addresses legal needs and financial stressors leading to participant satisfaction and stress reduction. Data collection is ongoing to determine whether this contributes to long term improved health outcomes.