

Breastfeeding Equity through Community Engagement

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BACKGROUND: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO)'s State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) program funds 16 state recipients to implement evidence-based strategies at state and local levels to improve nutrition and physical activity, including efforts to reduce or eliminate related health disparities. These states include Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Washington. With funding from CDC's DNPAO, ASTHO supports the 16 SPAN recipients in implementing evidence-based breastfeeding policies and practices through the Breastfeeding Learning Community (BLC). The BLC began in 2018 (Year 1) and will end in 2023 (Year 5).

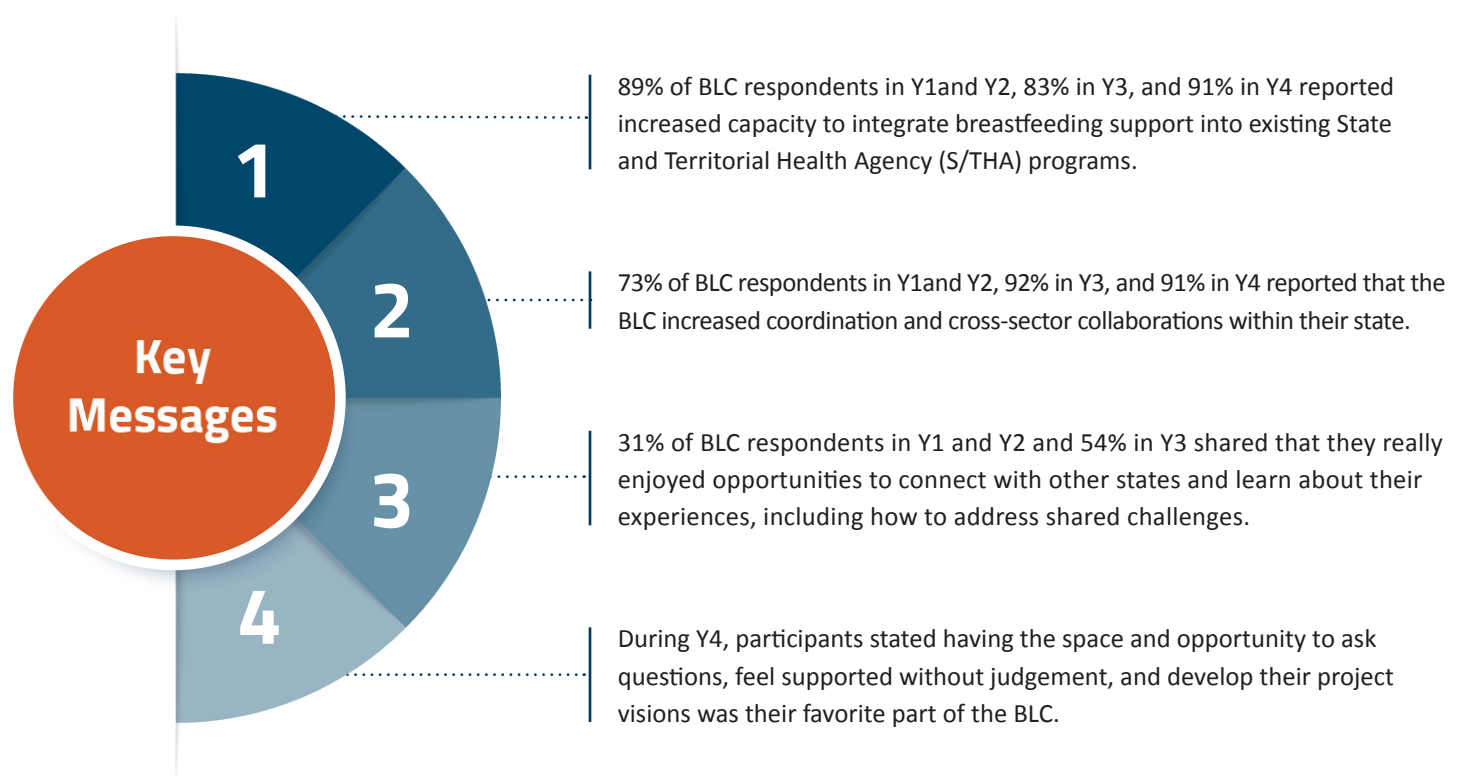


The BLC improves the capacity of SPAN states to implement breastfeeding initiatives in CDC's three evidence-based and -informed priority areas:

Improving maternity care practices in birthing facilities.

Improving continuity of care and community support for breastfeeding.

Ensuring workplace compliance with the federal lactation accommodation law.





BENEFITS: States involved in the Breastfeeding Learning Community reported that this opportunity assisted them in implementing at least one health equity practice, improving breastfeeding continuity of care, and improving workplace lactation accommodations resulting in community advisory groups, Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace Awards, and the intentional inclusion of parents of color, families in rural areas and breast/chestfeeding persons in breastfeeding initiatives.

Highlighted Breastfeeding Learning Community States Projects:



Arkansas

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) worked to improve breastfeeding policies and practices in early childhood education (ECE) centers and family medicine clinics serving breastfeeding mothers and infants in the Mississippi River Delta region. UAMS recruited ECE centers and family medicine clinics in medically underserved counties with low median incomes to complete assessments of breastfeeding policies and practices.



Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) worked with the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition (MBC) and other community organizations to improve support for breastfeeding families experiencing food insecurity in the Twin Cities. MDH and MBC engaged partner organizations and community members in implementing systemic changes to increase access to pasteurized human donor milk (PHDM) and skilled lactation support in a food pantry.



Utah

Utah Department of Health (UDOH), in partnership with their local health departments, assisted 17 worksites in improving lactation accommodations through grants, training, and technical assistance. UDOH conducted site visits to confirm compliance with federal lactation accommodation law and disseminated a survey where employees could provide feedback on lactation accommodations.

**The BLC will operate 2018 – 2023; this infographic covers Y1 (2018) through Y4 (2022) of the project.*