



Family Health Ambassadors 20-Month Performance Report

May 2024–December 2025

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Disclaimer: The findings, conclusions, and recommendations presented herein are those of the authors and are based on the data collected and analyzed during the evaluation. They do not necessarily represent the views of HRSA or MDH.

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Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (CYSHN) staff work together to champion the health and well-being of people living in Minnesota with special health needs and disabilities from the earliest stages of life through transition to adulthood.

About MN-ICECI

Minnesota faces significant challenges in implementing a coordinated early childhood system. For example, the array of more than 400 programs is complex and fragmented due to variations in eligibility and funding. The combined impact of these challenges points toward a great need for coordinated efforts in screenings, referrals, and follow-ups within populations who have experienced the greatest barriers to accessing the state’s early childhood system. The Minnesota Integrated Care for Early Childhood Initiative (MN-ICECI) is an African American community-centered partnership that is designed to connect health resources to strengthen services for African American children ages 0-3 and their families. MN-ICECI is aimed at building the infrastructure for an equitable, family-centered, integrated model for conducting early childhood screenings, referrals, and follow-ups within health settings for African American families who are pregnant or parenting young children (ages 0-3 years old).

Building off other early childhood initiatives in the state, such as the Preschool Development Grant, the MN-ICECI links with needed supports and resources to ensure better childhood and lifelong outcomes. The work is funded through an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three cooperative agreement awarded to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The grant started in August 2021 and ends in July 2026.

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Ambassadors Performance BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers, percentages, dollar amounts, qualitative, and observational data in this report represent the contributions of all MN-ICECI ambassadors and project consultants over a 20 month time period from May 2024 to December 2025.

Executive Summary

This MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors 20-Month Performance Report (May 2024–December 2025) documents the early development of MN-ICECI’s Family Health Ambassadors’ (FHA) journey. It highlights how the role has taken shape, its beginnings, early milestones, and key lessons that can inform the ambassador job description going forward. The report also provides updates for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the MN-ICECI Community Advisory Council (CAC), drawing on ambassadors’ monthly self-reports and observations from GrayHall LLP, which supports the FHA work. Overall, the report underscores the promise of the ambassador model and the opportunity to further strengthen it through continued investment and direction.

The report is organized into 11 sections and includes attachments that document month-to-month ambassador activities and provide background on MN-ICECI and the grant supporting this work. It describes how the FHA supports CAC strategies and summarizes key performance measures reported by ambassadors. It also reflects ambassadors’ investments in Minnesota communities through both direct support and economic contribution, and includes ambassador reflections on their work experience using a star-rating system alongside selected field stories.

In addition, the report compiles the types of support ambassadors requested over the 20-month period and concludes with a summary of accomplishments and a clear call to action: to help define how the ambassador corps can most effectively build a more connected early childhood system by supporting families in navigating existing services and accessing resources.

The authors hope this report strengthens shared understanding of what the FHA corps is achieving, what it needs to grow, and why it matters. By offering concrete examples from the field, the report is intended to help MN-ICECI supporters and partners communicate the value of this work and build momentum for the systems change needed to improve the health and well-being of all members of the Minnesota Community.



1,637
Total
Community
Support Hours



82
Average
Monthly
Support Hours



\$4,160
Average
Monthly
Economic
Investment



\$83,200
Total
Community
Economic
Investment



66
Families with
Children Ages 0-3
Connected with
Ambassadors at
2025 Baby Shower



10
Average #
Ambassadors
Submitting Hours
Monthly



4
Average Number of Stars
Ambassadors Gave Their Monthly
Work Experience
(4 = Exceeds Expectations)

Advancing MN-ICECI's Strategies

The MN-ICECI is operated by a multicultural and gender diverse Community Advisory Council (CAC) that partners with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to advance the strategic goals of the initiative. One such goal was the recruitment and implementation of an exploratory project, MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors (FHA), to determine the extent to which ambassadors could broaden families' knowledge of early childhood resources by participating in a coordinated effort related to screenings, referrals, and follow-ups

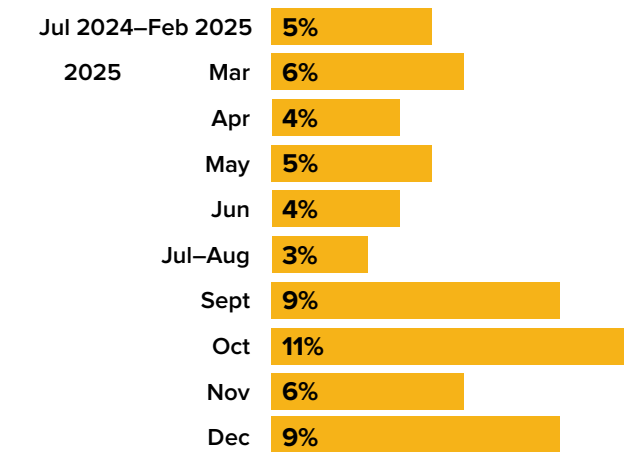
within Minnesota's African American community. The FHA corps was envisioned during the 2023–2024 MN-ICECI CAC strategic planning retreat and has been operational for 20 months.

This report is built on the FHA's monthly self-reports (Figure 1) and consultants observations of an August 2025 community baby shower where the FHA's tabled and provided information to 66 expecting and existing parents of children ages 0-3. The baby shower, sponsored by Ramsey County-Mothers First,

reportedly attracted more than 400 parents and children, a 33% increase from the previous year.

This FHA corps was launched as an exploratory activity without a formal Results Framework. Initial outcomes were documented through an analysis of the FHA's self-reports which reflect community change, but there is no evidence from program recipients, partners, or others to validate the effects of the FHA's work on African American families' skills or knowledge about Minnesota's early childhood system.

FIGURE 1
AMBASSADORS COMPLETING ACTIVITIES REPORTS
July 2024–December 2025 N=22*



Ambassadors' Roles

The MN-ICECI FHA are a culturally and geographically diverse corps of African Americans whose responsibilities include:

- Engaging African American families in conversations about screenings, referrals, and follow-ups within health settings for children ages 0-3.
- Introducing families to existing early childhood resources in Minnesota that they may not be familiar with.
- Helping families share stories about gaps/issues within early childhood systems to highlight items that need to be addressed by various early childhood system programs.
- Partnering with community organizations and others to learn about resources and to meet families that want to engage with an ambassador who is familiar with a wide range of community resources, especially African American centered tools, materials, and programs.

**From March 24 through December 2025 (20 months) the number of MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors ranged from 22 to 14 (the current number of Ambassadors).*

Ambassadors' Work Hours

Below are figures and charts of the MN-ICECI FHA self-reported work hour as compiled and organized by GrayHall LLP, a Saint Paul, Minnesota based consulting firm. Under a contract with the Minnesota-based Department of Health (MDH), GrayHall provides technical assistance, administrative, and other support to both the MN-ICECI CAC and FHA. Figures and tables in this section provide a 20-month overview of FHA's reported work hours.

As noted above ambassadors reported a total of 1,637 community support hours over 20 months from May 2024 through December 2025. The figure below illustrates that ambassadors logged more hours in May 2024, the first month of the work. At that time, there were 22 ambassadors. The number of ambassadors varied over the months as transitions occurred from May 2024 to June 2025 with ambassadors reporting the most hours (5%) in June, July, September, November, and December 2024 and January, February, August, and September 2025. On average, 10 ambassadors report 82 hours each month. More than half (62%) of ambassadors' hours were recorded in 2024 and a little over a third (38%) were recorded in 2025 (Figure 2 and Table 2). At this writing, there are 14 MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors.



FIGURE 2
AMBASSADORS HOURS BY MONTH N=22*

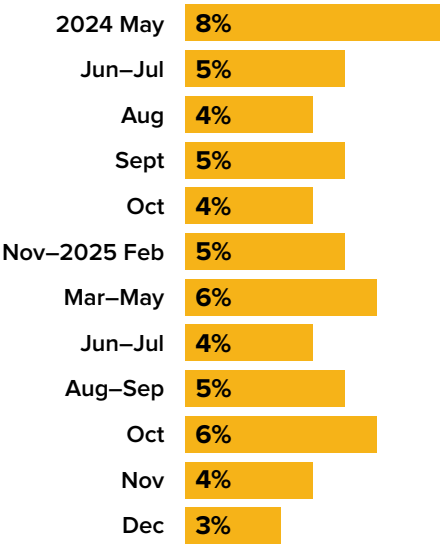


TABLE 1
AMBASSADORS HOURS BY MONTHS N=22*

DATE	WORK HOURS
2024 May	125 (8%)
June	74 (5%)
July	77 (5%)
August	66 (4%)
September	89 (5%)
October	64 (4%)
November	76 (5%)
December	79 (5%)
2025 January	89 (5%)
February	77 (5%)
March	95 (6%)
April	97.5 (6%)
May	97.5 (6%)
June	70.5 (4%)
July	68 (4%)
August	84.5 (5%)
September	85.5 (5%)
October	101 (6%)
November	76 (5%)
December	45.5 (2%)
TOTAL	1637 (100%)

*From March 24 through December 2025 (20 months) the number of MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors ranged from 22 to 14 (the current number of Ambassadors).

FIGURE 3

AMBASSADORS HOURS BY YEARS

N=22*

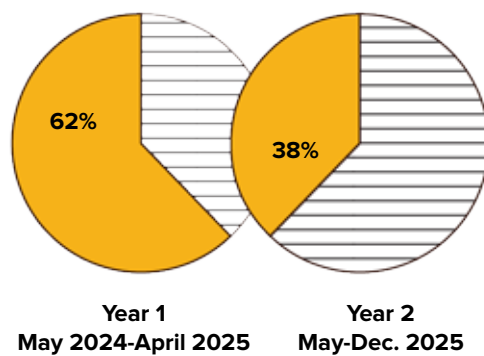


TABLE 2

**AMBASSADORS HOURS
BY YEARS**

N=22*

DATE	WORK HOURS
2024 May	125
June	74
July	77
August	66
September	89
October	64
November	76
December	79
2025 January	89
February	77
March	95
April	97.5
SUBTOTAL	1008.5 (62%)
2025 May	97.5
June	70.5
July	68
August	84.5
September	85.5
October	101
November	72
December	45.5
SUBTOTAL	624.5 (38%)

TABLE 3

**AMBASSADORS SUBMITTING
HOURS MONTHLY**

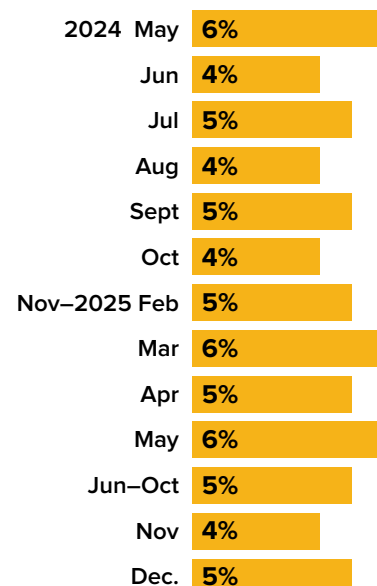
N=22*

DATE	AMBASSADORS
2024 May	12 (6%)
June	9 (4%)
July	11 (5%)
August	9 (4%)
September	10 (5%)
October	9 (4%)
November	10 (5%)
December	10 (5%)
2025 January	11 (5%)
February	10 (5%)
March	12 (6%)
April	11 (5%)
May	12 (6%)
June	10 (5%)
July	11 (5%)
August	10 (5%)
September	11 (5%)
October	10 (5%)
November	9 (4%)
December	11 (5%)
TOTAL	208 (100%)

FIGURE 4

**AMBASSADORS SUBMITTING
HOURS MONTHLY**

N=22*



* From March 24 through December 2025 (20 months) the number of MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors ranged from 22 to 14 (the current number of Ambassadors).

Community Economic Investment

Although not planned, incentivizing MN-ICECI FHA has a direct economic impact on Minnesota communities. Because the FHA's were part-time, grant-funded contractors at an hourly rate above minimum wage and because they were participating as paraprofessionals, their work and compensation resulted in unintended outcomes and community benefits that were not stated in the grant application. MN-ICECI is a source of employment in Minnesota, providing up to 22 part-time jobs in the early childhood paraprofessional health field in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas of Minneapolis and Saint

TABLE 4
OVERALL ECONOMIC INVESTMENT
N=22*

MONTH	AMOUNT
2024 May	\$4,425 (5%)
June	3,125 (4%)
July	4,300 (5%)
August	3,500 (4%)
September	4,600 (5%)
October	3,300 (4%)
November	3,800 (5%)
December	3,950 (5%)
2025 January	4,425 (5%)
February	3,825 (4%)
March	4,750 (6%)
April	5,275 (6%)
May	4,450 (5%)
June	4,300 (5%)
July	5,600 (7%)
August	3,425 (4%)
September	4,275 (5%)
October	3,800 (5%)
November	3,800 (5%)
December	4,275 (5%)
TOTAL	\$83,200 (100%)

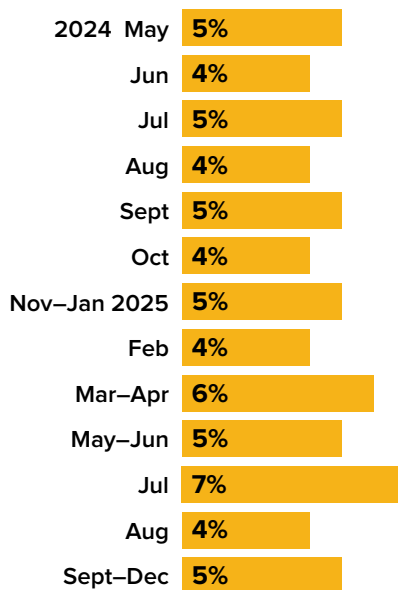


Paul. These positions support social workers, health care providers, public health agencies, and community health organizations, and support employment growth in Minnesota. MN-ICECI strengthens Minnesota's economy by supporting the pipeline of skilled paraprofessionals across the health care and social services industries. Its indirect impact on the industries provides training

that seeds innovation and supports economic growth. As many as 22 community members have been financially supported as Family Health Ambassadors, receiving \$50 an hour which is nearly five times the minimum wage of \$11.13 an hour in Minnesota.

Because money is typically spent locally on food, rent, transportation, etc.—the foundation of local economic development—the MN-ICECI ambassador incentives are likely reinvested locally while strengthening workforce skills, economic equity, and community stability. It also has workforce development value, offering skill-building opportunities for those who have not worked on early childhood issues or in the early childhood field. The MN-ICECI ambassador position prioritizes the lived experience of people with knowledge of early childhood systems and the ability to navigate them. This allows job applicants to emphasize such skills which are critical in building community trust and engagement. The ambassador corps generates an average monthly community economic investment of over \$4000 and a total of \$83,200 over 20 months.

FIGURE 5
OVERALL ECONOMIC INVESTMENT
N=22*



* From March 24 through December 2025 (20 months) the number of MN-ICECI Family Health Ambassadors ranged from 22 to 14 (the current number of Ambassadors).

Ambassadors Work Activities

The figure and table in this section display FHA's reported activities from May 2024 through December 2025. As shown, the ambassadors shared a combined 295 activities, an average of 30 per month, over 20 months. The overall figure and table display 6 core activity areas (i.e., Parent Visits/

Engagement, Community Engagement, Outreach, and Advocacy; Partner Meetings; Compiling Resources; Social Media; and Professional Education) that represent ambassadors self-reported activities. Monthly tables, showing the activities performed, also appear in this section. The activities

illustrated under the core area headings include challenges impacting families with children ages 0-3 and issues that could potentially shape the futures of the African American early childhood population.

FIGURE 6
WORK ACTIVITIES / MAY 2024–DECEMBER 2025 N=22*

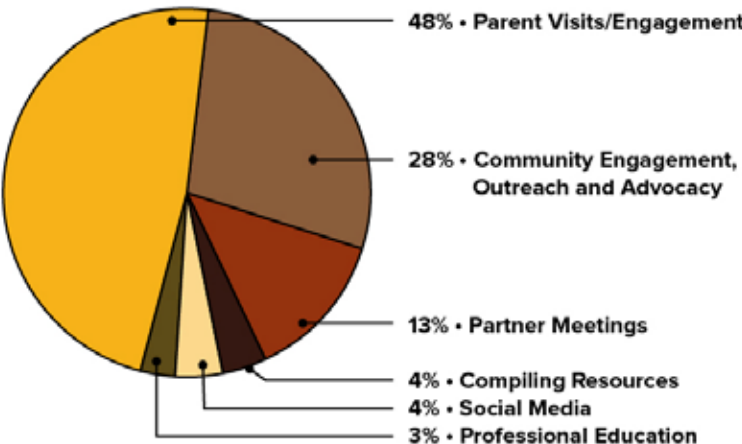


TABLE 5
WORK ACTIVITIES / MAY 2024–DECEMBER 2025 N=22*

MARCH '25 ACTIVITIES	ACTIONS PERFORMED
Parent Visits/Engagement	374 (48%)
Community Engagement, Outreach and Advocacy	216 (28%)
Compiling Resources	98 (13%)
Partner Meetings	29 (4%)
Social Media	28 (4%)
Professional Education	20 (3%)
TOTAL	771 (100%)

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent



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What Ambassadors Self-Reported Work Activities Emphasize

The MN-ICECI ambassadors self-reported data suggests that they spend their work hours on 6 community support items that are listed in priority order below—one being where the most time is spent and 6 being where the least time is spent:

1. Parent Visits/Engagement
2. Community Engagement, Outreach, and Advocacy
3. Partner Meetings
4. Compiling Resources
5. Social Media
6. Professional Education

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT

Highlights the value of direct, relational work with various populations. Families often face barriers such as lack of awareness, trust, confidence, or time, which, when prioritized, can fill a critical gap. The community benefit is improved utilization, understanding, and outcomes from existing resources.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY

Reflects the importance of bridging systems and people. Outreach and advocacy can elevate missing voices, helping ensure that historically underserved or disconnected groups' voices are heard and that such populations are aware of, trust, and can access what already exists.

PARTNER MEETINGS

Indicates that connections and coordination can reduce fragmentation. Some people believe that many mature service ecosystems operate in silos. Partner meetings increase alignment, reduce redundancy, and enable existing resources to work together more efficiently, strengthening the overall community infrastructure.

COMPILING RESOURCES

Reinforces the notion that information, services, tools and other resources are scattered, maybe even unknowingly siloed. Compiling resources adds value by curating, simplifying, and contextualizing information so it is easily usable by families. The community benefit is clarity and navigability.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Supports—it is useful for awareness and reinforcement, but less effective than direct engagement or partnership-building when resources already exist. Its value is in extending reach, not replacing relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Was not as important as the other five items discussed here. The community impact is incremental rather than transformational when compared to direct family and community-facing work.

Given that these services and resources have been and are available in the community and MN-ICECI ambassadors are spending time making additional contributions in the areas suggests the importance of amplifying, coordinating, and offering different or greater accessibility to exiting services. A key expectation of the ambassador role at the time that ambassadors were envisioned by the CAC was that what could be offered by the ambassadors would lie in how effectively those offerings are in connecting to families and how what is offered is linked to other issues in a families' life such as systems navigation, food, and housing (e.g., social determinants of health/SDOH: the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age that affect their health and wellbeing). Paragraphs below summarize each of the 6 activity areas and Attachments A-T display monthly tables of various ambassador activities.

How ambassadors have chosen to use their time implies that the greatest community value of their work comes from activation, connection, and trust-building, reminding us that even in a long-established service landscape, gaps persist in awareness, access, coordination, and relationship-building. The ambassadors activities' focus indicates that the services they prioritized are important not because they replace what already exists, but because they unlock the potential of existing systems for the community.

Ambassadors Rate Their Monthly Work Experiences

Question 10 on the MN-ICECI Ambassadors “Timesheet and Work Activities Report” asked responders to reflect on the last four weeks as a MN-ICECI ambassador and rate their experience using stars: 1 star = Unsatisfactory and 5 stars = Excellent. Responders’ star averages for each month beginning July 2024, when activity reports were first introduced, through December 2025 appear on the right.

The number of reports completed during that period was four to 13 and the average star ranking was four.



July 2024 (N=6)



August 2024–December 2025

August (N=6)	February (N=7)	August (N=4)
September (N=6)	March (N=8)	September (N=11)
October (N=6)	April (N=5)	October (N=13)
November (N=6)	May (N=6)	November (N=8)
December (N=7)	June (N=5)	December (N=11)
January 2025 (N=7)	July (N=4)	



Selected Ambassador Stories

MAY 2024–DECEMBER 2025

Eight categories summarize story topics Family Health Ambassadors shared over the past 20 months. These range from the personal, such as the health of families with children ages 0-3, to micro and macro systems factors, that impact family health and wellbeing. Topics are listed in Table 6 according to the number of stories that were shared.

Most stories focused on Connecting Families to Resources including school supplies, food banks, housing, and child care. Systems Navigation was the next story category that ambassadors wrote most about which included early childhood testing, shelter, services for children with special needs, and pregnancy supports such as doula services. Stories categorized under Children’s Issues included newborn and toddler behavior, children missing developmental milestones, and children’s emotional behavior. Fathers Needs stories highlighted the roles of single and new fathers, and support systems for fathers. Mom’s health stories centered on postpartum issues such as physical and mental health. The Childcare and Schools section includes stories about finding the best childcare for children with special needs and helping parents navigate various school systems. The ambassadors also shared stories about their work to prepare for podcasts and various outreach activities under the heading Outreach and Education. Just one story was shared about MN-ICECI’s “real systems change” work. Stories are listed below under the headings as they appear in Table 6:

TABLE 6
SHARED STORY TOPICS N=22*

TOPIC	NUMBER OF STORIES SHARED
Connecting Families to Resources	22 (38%)
System’s Navigation	12 (21%)
Children’s Issues	7 (12%)
Fathers Needs	7 (12%)
Mom’s Health	4 (7%)
Childcare and Schools	2 (4%)
Outreach and Education	2 (4%)
Systems Change	1 (2%)
TOTAL	57 (100%)

Connecting Families to Resources

“I am working to connect more of my schools to local resources to help them gain access to supplies for their children.”

- “Connecting families to local food banks have helped me learn when and where many local organizations are providing food and resources to families on a monthly basis. I have been working to share these food bank actions more widely.”
 - “My work consist of working with 4 families. I help each family navigate early childhood challenges, help them seek and procure resources. My most recent work was helping families get ready for back to school.”
 - “The birth summit was amazing.”
- “I was able to meet with Health Partners Clinic to discuss their outreach to new parents
 - “Highlight was the Twins game.”
 - “Working with the Ebenezer Community Church Social Services to promote awareness on early childhood health and educational resources, new mothers self-care and support.”
 - “I’ve worked with [Name Removed] and her young family. She is pregnant and has greatly benefitted from the resources I shared.”
- “Their Community Gathering meeting was powerful as we were able to connect with community doing great work and build resilience.”
 - “I’ve been collaborating with people I know about affordable childcare. I was informed of a place called Pica in North Minneapolis. I’ve been researching their services offered so that I can share amongst the team and people in the community.”
 - Looking into ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) schools.
 - “Young parent outreach is setting up educational sessions for young parents with young children.

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- “This month two new baby boys came into the world. The families are doing well I am overjoyed”
- “The things we do help them a lot.”
- “Helped and provided resources for a dad with infant twins.”
- The need is high at the food shelf near me due to the shutdown.
- “I have expanded my knowledge of community resources for postpartum mothers tremendously. Being a postpartum mother myself, I’ve learned there is a true need in the community for more housing resources, without wait lists and clothing/hygiene needs for older toddlers.”
- “I used this month to think about ways we can spread the word about MN-ICECI work and how to share resources with families and communities.”
- “Helped a mom get childcare.”
- “Networking with mothers has been successful. They are appreciative that they know someone who can connect them to resources, as well as bond with them based on my perspective as a mother with a child who is three.”
- “Families are stressing a lot about the state shutdown and the effects of the shut down.”

Systems Navigation

“Just grateful to be of service in my community. Our efforts are really helping a few families through some really tough times.”

- “I help each family navigate early childhood challenges, help them seek and procure resources. My most recent work was helping families get ready for back to school.”
- “I was able to meet with Health Partners Clinic to discuss their outreach to new parents
- We had a family over for dinner in late December. They have three children but are expecting their first child in America. They had so many questions about navigating the healthcare system and about resources offered. My husband and I were able to share resources with them through Help Me Connect.
- Making community connections around early childhood and making sure it gets into the hands of community members.
- “I attended a meeting with a family to get some testing done for their child who has special needs. Given that I have experience, they wanted me to attend to make sure that their needs were relayed properly to the medical professionals.”
- “I was about to help a family who thinks their son was not meeting his developmental milestones. I was about to connect them to Help me Grow and they saw how and where their son was in development and [they decided to] work on what he was lacking.”
- “Met with two clinics to discuss their outreach and referral process.”
- A parent I am working with “... is having a scheduled C-Section 12/3/25. She is a single mother of three children. Two of her children are three and under not including her expected newborn. Through community resources she was able to work with a doula and obtain all of her baby’s necessities.”
- “I was able to get a family into a shelter with their two kids last week.”
- “I was able to help a mom navigate getting into a shelter with her kids and getting food.”
- “Just grateful to be of service in my community. Our efforts are really helping a few families through some really tough times.”

Children's Issues

“The “Welcome Baby Bags” Project connected four families to baby supplies and community resources. There were three babies born this month.”

- Talking to a parent who is navigating newborn along with a toddler. Spoke to them about mental health resources and ways to healthily communicate with their partner.
- Mom came to me with a 2 year old who was missing milestones and looking for support to get into early childhood therapy and speech.
- Working with a parent, we talked about how to navigate toddlers who were showing a wide range of emotions. They found it helpful to understand how keeping productive communication helped calm the situation.
- The “Welcome Baby Bags” Project connected four families to baby supplies and community resources. There were three babies born this month.
- Working with a parent, we talked about how to navigate toddlers who were showing a wide range of emotions. They found it helpful to understand how keeping productive communication helped calm the situation.
- “Working with families who have children with special needs.”

Fathers Needs

“This single father needs help with childcare, and I was able to help him not only navigate childcare but also get him and his child to join a few parental groups in the community.”

- I talked with a soon to be father whose child is due in February. He is nervous about the birth process and how to advocate for his wife during the birthing process. I shared my experience with him but also referred him to resources on how to show up and what to look out for during the birthing process and the few days after. He was appreciative of my advice as he feels that fathers don't always get the support they need in the birthing process.
- Gathered with a group of fathers to speak about work/life balance, along with meaningful parenting. Had great dialogue and suggestions for community activities to involve their kids.
- Soon to be fathers and current fathers are curious about different support systems for dads regarding how this change effects them and how to best support their partners in this process.
- “A small group of fathers have planned to meet weekly to discuss activities and brainstorm strategies for more fatherly engagement.”
- “Working to connect young fathers around the Twin Cities. Creating a community support system with resources around navigating the toddler stage. “lift rebate”

Moms Health

“I was working with a mom who needed resources for move-in cost. She was homeless and I was able to provide her with those resources, and she moved into her place this week with her baby.”

- I've been working with a new mom who had her baby in February. She expressed in her conversation that she's been having some health complications. We spent some time looking into some supports she can get for baby in order for her to manage her health. I think it's common for moms to feel like they have to neglect themselves in order to take care of their babies.
- “I have expanded my knowledge of community resources for postpartum mothers tremendously. Being a postpartum mother myself, I've learned there is a true need in the community for more housing resources, without wait lists and clothing/hygiene needs for older toddlers.”
- “I know that one mom needs more time to talk over phone and just give her time to vent. We went to go get diapers and walked to move baby down.”

Outreach and Education

“Prep, plan for Podcast appearances.”

- “The team has been communicating on ways we can grow professionally. There has also been mention of a podcast opportunity. We are brainstorming if we should have team leads.”

Childcare and Schools

“Looking into ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) schools.”

- I've been collaborating with people I know about affordable childcare. I was informed of a place called Pica in North Minneapolis. I've been researching their services offered so that I can share amongst the team and people in the community.”

Systems Change

“[MN-ICECI] isn't just about creating a new program—it's about changing how systems actually respond to families.

I've seen how they bring parents, caregivers, and cultural organizations into the center of decision making, which makes the solutions real and meaningful. The focus is on making sure families don't feel like they're being talked about, but rather that they're being heard and leading the process. I've seen how BIPOC families often face barriers that go beyond just accessing services—they face systems that aren't designed with their realities in mind. I've experienced this myself as a parent trying to navigate housing, healthcare, and childcare

all at once. Too often, the forms are long and confusing, resources aren't explained clearly, and there isn't enough cultural understanding in how families are treated. One example that stays with me is a mother who shared how she felt judged during an intake process. Instead of being supported, she walked away feeling like she had failed her child. Her story reminded me of times when, I, too felt like the system was more focused on checking boxes than truly helping. I believe MN-ICECI should address these gaps by making services culturally responsive,

accessible in multiple languages, and easier to navigate, so BIPOC families don't have to constantly fight to be heard and respected. Using my role as an ambassador, I've been able to lift up stories like hers—and my own—to remind system leaders that equity isn't about creating more programs, it's about reshaping the way families experience them.”

Requested Help

From April through November 2025, 14 ambassadors requested help (Table 7) in their activities reports when asked, “Is there anything you need help with?” This list of requests suggests that ambassadors are mostly satisfied with their work and that adding a few additional tools and strategies could improve their work experience.

TABLE 7

ITEMS AMBASSADORS NEED HELP WITH

N=14

Clarification of ambassadors responsibilities for joint event planning and implementation (i.e., Black Market; Baby Shower; Resources List; meeting schedules; Social Media, better [interpersonal] communication, and “I really want to build a social media platform or utilize a space on a website so we can put infographics, resources , etc.”)	7 (50%)
Requests for Direct Deposit (i.e., “How can I enroll in direct deposit to receive monthly MN-ICECI payment?”)	4 (29%)
Request for more hours (i.e., “We need more hours. People need us.”)	1 (7%)
Resources to support toddlers speech development	1 (7%)
Resources to help toddlers managing emotions	1 (7%)
TOTAL	14 (100%)

Conclusion

The creation of part-time, Family Health Ambassadors has demonstrated potential as an approach to improving engagement, awareness, and trust within the community. Despite the limited hours and pilot-phase scope, the positions reportedly serve as liaisons between families with children ages 0-3 and they have been bridges to existing health and other community resources that many are unaware of. Perhaps most important, the number of contacts ambassadors reported making with parents and other family members in the community identifies a population that is interested in the services.

Over the reporting period, the FHA contributed to increased outreach efforts, facilitated connections to services, and enhanced communication between various service providers and community

members. Ambassadors self-reports indicate that the population-specific focus of their roles strengthened credibility and accessibility in ways that are not broadly or easily achieved through traditional staffing models.

At the same time, challenges related to the part-time nature of the role—such as capacity limitations—highlight the need for clear prioritization and additional feedback mechanism, especially the voices of those receiving services, to address any needed structural adjustments. These findings suggest that while the role is effective, its impact could be amplified by expanding hours, clarifying performance metrics, and providing additional agency support.

Overall, the pilot supports the continued development of population-specific ambassador positions as

a viable and adaptable strategy for targeted health engagement. Future iterations should build on lessons learned, refine role expectations, and incorporate outcome-based measures to further assess long-term value and sustainability.

Based on 20-months of accomplishments, the MN-ICECI CAC is at a unique moment to help define the value of FHA. Building a more connected early childhood system could depend on people with lived experiences partnering with the government to help families navigate through existing systems and resources. Making real progress to reduce inequities will depend on knowing the true success of the MN-ICECI FHAs.

Attachments

A-E: May–September 2024

A. May '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 8 (36%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY / 6 (27%)

ECFE Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

PARTNER MEETINGS / 2 (9%)

Como Park Family Events

COMPILING RESOURCES / 1 (5%)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 5 (23%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit; reading onboarding materials, meetings

TOTAL / 22 (100%)

N=22

B. June '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 8 (40%)

ECFE Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 5 (25%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys,

mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

PARTNER MEETINGS / 4 (20%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 1 (5%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (5%)

Facebook Posts

COMPILING RESOURCES / 1 (5%)

community research

TOTAL / 20 (100%)

N=15

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

C. July '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 13 (41%)

ECFE Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events)

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 11 (35%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital

visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 3 (9%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (6%)

resources research, compiling resources

SOCIAL MEDIA / 2 (6%)

Facebook posts

PARTNER MEETINGS / 1 (3%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings

TOTAL / 32 (100%)

N=13

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

D. August '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 10 (42%)

ECFE Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 6 (25%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner

for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 3 (13%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (8%)

resources research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up

PARTNER MEETINGS / 2 (8%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (4%)

Facebook posts

TOTAL / 24 (100%)

N=10

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

E. September '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 12 (54%)

ECFE Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 6 (27%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA)

resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 2 (9%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit

COMPILING RESOURCES / 1 (5%)

resources research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (5%)

Facebook posts

TOTAL / 22 (100%)

N=13

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

F-J: October–February 2025

F. October '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 13 (43%)

ECFE/Early Childhood Family Education, Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 10 (33%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner

for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 2 (7%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit; APHA/American Public Health Association

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (7%)

resources research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up

PARTNER MEETINGS / 2 (7%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (3%)

Facebook posts

TOTAL / 30 (100%)

N=12

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

G. November '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 11 (38%)

ECFE/Early Childhood Family Education, Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 10 (35%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner

for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

SOCIAL MEDIA / 3 (10%)

Facebook posts

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 2 (7%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit; APHA/American Public Health Association, AABC Host Training

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (7%)

resources research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up

PARTNER MEETINGS / 1 (3%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair

TOTAL / 29 (100%)**N=15**

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

H. December '24 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 21 (64%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 7 (21%)

ECFE/Early Childhood Family Education, Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events

SOCIAL MEDIA / 2 (6%)

Facebook posts

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (6%)

resources research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up

PARTNER MEETINGS / 1 (3%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair, Ambassadors meeting

TOTAL / 33 (100%)**N=12**

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

I. January '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 15 (44%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 9 (26%)

ECFE/Early Childhood Family Education, Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood

Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events, resource giveaway

COMPILING RESOURCES / 5 (15%)

research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up; Black provider resources research; children health checklist; mental health and prenatal care resources

SOCIAL MEDIA / 3 (9%)

Facebook posts

PARTNER MEETINGS / 1 (3%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair, Ambassadors meeting

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 1 (3%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit; APHA/American Public Health Association, AABC Host Training and AABC Jubilee of Health & Wellness

TOTAL / 34 (100%)

N=15

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

J. February '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 15 (58%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources; taught dad on car seat installation and process of bringing newborn home safely; home visits to share resources; insurance education

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 9 (34%)

ECFE/Early Childhood Family Education, Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors, meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events; resource giveaway; neighborhood meetings; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders/FASDs Taskforce

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (4%)

Facebook posts

PARTNER MEETINGS / 1 (4%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair, irth Ambassadors meeting, Wilder Foundation

TOTAL / 28 (100%)

N=15

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

K-O: March–July 2025

K. March '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 16 (53%)

family talks, phone calls, meetings; early childhood assistance; navigating WIC; monitoring health of newborn, resource gathering, emailing, Rebuilding Partnerships-Emerging Mothers, Family Conversation/Resource Connections, Family Empowerment Event; MUFEYA/Mothers United Fostering the Empowerment of Young Africans; Osseo Area Schools Early Child Education, family daycare resource; early literacy resources; Black and Brown birthing resources; Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) resources; Birth Equity Job Fair; daycare, diaper, food, toys, mental health, and WIC resources; new parent hospital visits; newborn care; sharing Help Me Grow; hosted dinner for expectant family and a family with newborn; talked to fathers about managing birth and doula resources; parent education; Help Me Connect; birth plan resources; Autism resources; taught dad on car seat installation and process of bringing newborn home safely; home visits to share resources; insurance education; program referrals; teaching and helping with home cleaning; monthly fathers check-ins; parent check-ins; shared Help Me Grow; new Moms meetings; ECFE Family Storytime

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 8 (27%)

ECFE/Early Childhood Family Education, Parenting Groups, Public Health meetings, connecting fathers and sons, Juneteenth events, recruiting parent mentors,

meeting with youth, networking, Moms Group; Cleveland Neighborhood Association, faith community contacts, Anew meeting, Parent-Child Storytime, community events; resource giveaway; neighborhood meetings; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders/FASDs Taskforce; Connection Brunch; resources shared with families at Grace Apostolic Church in Minnetonka

PARTNER MEETINGS / 2 (7%)

Como Park Family Events, phone calls, cohort gatherings, Grandparents Resource Fair, irth Ambassadors meeting, Wilder Foundation

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (7%)

research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up, compiling resources

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (3%)

Facebook posts

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 1 (3%)

NICHQ Webinar, Doula Workshop, Self-Care Class, Sound Healing, Selfcare Workshop, Dual Doula class, CPR class, Black & Brown Birthing Summit; APHA/American Public Health Association, AABC Host Training and AABC Jubilee of Health & Wellness; Emerging Findings meetings

TOTAL / 30 (100%)

N=16

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

L. April '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 34 (46%)

family visit: parent, two children younger than two years old; four "Welcome Baby Bags": diapers, wipes, pacifiers, local resources list/and informational sessions in Saint Paul and Rochester MN; helped families locate resources; provided diapers to St. Paul, Rochester and Greater Minnesota families; Child Care Fund help

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 29 (39%)

community event; outreach/family transportation; donations; Early Childhood Family Education/ECFE Story Time; Centering Fathers and fatherhood sessions; ECCSS meeting; MN-ICECI informational session; Hennepin County

Library Connect and Play; irth App Momma Night Out; Nurturing Young Minds event networking; conversation about challenges of getting childcare; diapers help

PARTNER MEETINGS / 8 (11%)

Ambassadors meeting; MN-ICECI CAC

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (1%)

Facebook posts

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 2 (3%)

Steps of Strategy event

TOTAL / 74 (100%)

N=11

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

M. May '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 21 (34%)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 8 (13%)

received a \$200 grant to support the “Welcome Baby Bag” project; church presentation; childcare updates

PARTNER MEETINGS / 25 (41%)

MN-ICECI CAC and Ambassadors; networking with College Bound; JK Movement meeting; Early Childhood Family Education/ECFE visit; Parent Group meeting; Connector event; Parent Day event; talks with families at College Bound Money Action Day; distributed resources; networking; U of M neuroscience outreach; AA healthcare provider outreach; meeting with pregnant youth

COMPILING RESOURCES / 5 (8%)

research, compiling resources, WhatsApp set-up, compiling resources

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (2%)

Facebook posts

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 1 (2%)

Steps of Strategy event

TOTAL / 81 (100%)

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

N=12

N. June '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 31 (60%)

drove parent to check-out a daycare center, discussed what to look for, and helped parent apply; diaper help; “Welcome Baby Bag” visits with families; helped parent navigate a doctor’s visit; helped parent navigate an Autism appointment; donated to parent

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 10 (19%)

Village Park event; Avon Block Party; Juneteenth “Welcome Baby Bag” giveaway; baby shower prep

PARTNER MEETINGS / 6 (11%)

Brooklyn Center event; Fathers Community Gathering; networking; MN-ICECI CAC and Ambassadors meetings; AA Mental Health Network meeting; U of M neuroscience meeting

COMPILING RESOURCES / 3 (6%)

SOCIAL MEDIA / 2 (4%)

Facebook posts

TOTAL / 52 (100%)

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

N=10

O. July '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 27 (52%)

shared home health education resources; Childcare Tour; helped parent navigate the Diaper Depot; talked with parent at AFDC office about Help Me Grow and Follow Along; “Welcome Baby Bag” family meetings with 26-year old parent of newborn girl, 21-year old parent with newborn boy, 15 year-old parent with newborn boy, and 25-year old parent expecting in August 2026

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 20 (38%)

Mothers First Baby Shower planning; Safe Summer Nights; networking; MN-ICECI CAC and Ambassadors meetings;

Faith Community meetings; School community connections; Baby Shower planning; community event with Creative Church

PARTNER MEETINGS / 1 (2%)

COMPILING RESOURCES / 2 (4%)

SOCIAL MEDIA / 2 (4%)

Facebook posts, MN Cold Podcast

TOTAL / 52 (100%)

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

N=11

P-T: August–December 2025

P. August '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 28 (53%)

ECFE meeting; childcare support meeting; early childhood activities meeting; parenting meeting; pregnancy resources shared with families; “Welcome Baby Bags” meetings with families in Frogtown and NE Minneapolis; visits with the Manyeh, Ongunti, Swaray, and Evans families; parent meeting to discuss Help Me Connect; parent meeting on childcare

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 7 (13%)

Shower planning and coordination/Mothers First Baby Shower planning and attendance; Pilgrim Baptist Church

PARTNER MEETINGS / 12 (23%)

ECFE; Fathers Connect meeting; Fathers and Strollers connection; ABC introduction for parent educators

COMPILING RESOURCES / 1 (2%)

SOCIAL MEDIA / 4 (7%)

Facebook posts

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 1 (2%)

Childcare laws

TOTAL / 53 (100%)

N=10

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

Q. September '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 31 (58%)

Welcome Baby Bags” distributed diapers to Northside family and diapers, wipes, and bottles to Oakdale family; Back to school shopping; clothing donations; drove parent to check out a daycare center and see if it will help their special needs child; trip to diaper depot and talk with family about postpartum

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 10 (18%)

Welcome Baby Bag” outreach; church community outreach; networking with mothers; networking with Black elders; Thrive By Five Wilder Family Gathering; MN Twins event networking

PARTNER MEETINGS / 11 (20%)

MN-ICECI CAC and Ambassadors meetings; Fatherhood meetings; Bridging Partner meeting; Health Partners Partner Meeting; Solid Ground meeting

COMPILING RESOURCES / 1 (2%)

“looked up resources in different counties and asked about diapers, different shelters, law, and policies updates”

SOCIAL MEDIA / 1 (2%)

Facebook posts

TOTAL / 54 (100%)

N=11

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

S. November '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 17 (53%)

Baby supplies distribution; “Welcome Baby Bags for Maplewood and Brooklyn Park Families newborn boys; drove family to Diaper Banks; Daycare Tours; Clothing donations; helping parent with birth preparation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 7 (22%)

Education rally; x; team emails; community networking ; attending events

PARTNER MEETINGS / 4 (13%)

BIPOC Birth worker mixer; Club Dad; MN-ICECI CAC and Ambassadors meetings; Fatherhood gathering

SOCIAL MEDIA / 3 (9%)

Podcast discussion

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION / 1 (3%)

Daycare updates

TOTAL / 32 (100%)

N=9

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

T. December '25 Activities/Number of Ambassador Reported Actions Performed

PARENT VISITS/ENGAGEMENT / 30 (63%)

(“Welcome Baby Bags,” including diapers and wipes provided to expecting parent in Woodbury; meeting with expecting parent; connected families to resources; helped with childcare application; community donations; parent follow-up; Helped mother get assistance for autistic son

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY / 13 (27%)

Community Holiday Party at church—“Organized and served a community dinner ... and handed out diapers, wipes, bottles, and blankets to families;” connected Oakdale family to local community resources to feed their children and gain access to winter clothing; Fathers with kids meeting; monthly father’s event; U of MN meeting; Fairview Hospital meeting; irth meeting

PARTNER MEETINGS / 2 (4%)

ECC social services board meeting; meeting with organizations

SOCIAL MEDIA / 2 (4%)

Podcast

CONNECTING FAMILIES TO RESOURCES / 1 (2%)

TOTAL 48 / (100%)

N=11

More than one option could be mentioned per respondent

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If you would like to learn more about the MN-ICECI FHAs or the MN-ICECI Strategic Plan, please visit the [MN-ICECI website](https://mn-iceci.org). To explore opportunities to take action and partner with us, please reach out to us at mn-iceci.org.



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Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (CYSHN) staff work together to champion the health and well-being of people living in Minnesota with special health needs and disabilities from the earliest stages of life through transition to adulthood.