• **Aurora African American Health Fair Committee:** The Aurora based group will receive $300,000 to carry out the BIRTH Project which aims to reduce maternal and infant health disparities among Black women and families by training community health workers and doulas to promote culturally competent care.
• **Blessing Hospital:** The hospital in Quincy will receive $400,000 for a project designed to reduce health inequities in Black and Brown women by increasing engagement and participation in their healthcare. The project will focus on expanding connections to doulas, enhancing care coordination, education and support.
• **Boone County Health Department:** The county will receive $100,000 for the Engage, Elevate, and Empower (E3) program that will embed a bilingual peer navigator into an existing, successful mobile unit program to provide culturally appropriate pregnancy and reproductive health education at convenient locations and times.
• **CHOICES:** The Carbondale-based agency will receive $400,000 to address birth inequities for BIPOC (Black people, Indigenous people, and other People of Color) pregnant people in Southern Illinois by building critical infrastructure for birth workers.
• **The Doula Lab:** The Belleville-based, BIPOC-led, non-profit organization will receive $400,000 for improving maternal and reproductive health outcomes for communities in the Metro East area. The project focuses on addressing systemic disparities in maternal health by expanding the doula workforce.
• **Family Christian Health Center:** Based in South Suburban Cook County, the federally qualified health center will receive $300,000 to develop a scalable model to advance and integrate care coordination, and quality and outcome standards for high-risk pregnant and postpartum patients in a newly built maternal child health and wellness center.
• **Family Focus:** The Chicago-based group will receive $700,000 to serve areas with significant maternal and infant health disparities. The program will address disparities by developing a “Dream Builders Hub,” a training program for community-based teams of maternal support services, such as home visitors and doulas. They will also implement educational sessions for fathers through the "Strong Fathers, Strong Families" Program.
• **The Haymarket Center:** The Chicago-based Federally Qualified Look Alike Health Center will receive $250,000 to mitigate health disparities among pregnant and postpartum Illinoisans struggling with mental health and substance use disorder, and their children, by increasing access to screening instruments, educational groups, care supplies, and clinical providers in a one-stop-shop fashion.
• **Midwest Asian Health Association:** The Chicago-based group will receive $700,000 to enhance perinatal outcomes for limited English proficient Asian women by integrating culturally tailored doula care, health education and impact evaluations to close gaps and ensure equitable access.
• **SGA Youth & Family Services:** The Chicago-based group will receive $450,000 to address maternal health inequities in South Side communities and suburban Cook County through a community-focused, equity-driven approach. The program is designed to achieve meaningful outcomes through culturally responsive community outreach, including education and care support, specifically addressing gaps highlighted in IDPH's recent reports on maternal morbidity and mortality.
• **UIC at Chicago-Miles Square:** Based in Chicago, the Community Maternal Health Care (CMHC) project will receive $200,000 to explore the impact of an innovative community-based model of comprehensive midwife-led prenatal care in a Federally Qualified Health Center (with behavioral health, oral health, doulas, case management, and social needs screening) delivered to Black women in their own communities.
• **Winnebago County Health Department:** The county will receive $300,000 to launch "Winning Start Winnebago, Welcoming Babies and Connecting Families." The program will integrate a universal newborn system of support, a doula development program, and CredibleMinds, a mental health platform to address behavioral health and substance use.