



# Honoring Roots, Flourishing Futures



## 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR IMPACT SUMMARY

SisterWeb's journey has been one of rooting, growing, and flourishing. As we grow through challenges, we create opportunities for our community to flourish in San Francisco for generations to come.

### Kindred Birth Companions (KBC)

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- **103** of clients received community doula care.
- **85%** of clients initiated breastfeeding at birth.
- **61%** of clients continued breastfeeding at six weeks postpartum.
- **100%** of clients reported their doulas helped them use their voice, assert their own wishes, and ask for a moment when they needed time to think over a decision.
- **100%** of clients reported their doulas helped them feel more confident navigating healthcare systems understanding their rights and options.

“The biggest benefit of having a doula was keeping me calm and talking to me and helping me not focus on the pain. SisterWeb Client

“SisterWeb doula allowed for the patient to feel heard and cared for and allowed for the patient to have an advocate and someone in her corner to speak on her behalf. Kaiser San Francisco Provider

### Champion Dyad Initiative (CDI)

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- SisterWeb's CDI partners are **Kaiser San Francisco, San Francisco Birth Center, Sutter Health CPMC, UCSF Medical Center, and Zuckerberg San Francisco General.**
- SisterWeb hosted the first in-person meeting with all CDI hospital and birth center partners since the start of the **COVID-19 pandemic.** We discussed ways to provide efficient and effective bi-directional feedback between community doulas and healthcare providers to increase individual and institutional level accountability.
- **131** instances of coordination of care occurred between SisterWeb staff and medical staff.
- In collaboration with the CDI, we held the following sessions through the **BIPOC Birthworker Learning Series:** “Strategies to Support Vaginal Births” in collaboration with Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and “Empowering Our Legacy: Black Birthworkers Panel for Maternal Health Equity” in collaboration with UCSF.

“Our teamwork with SisterWeb doulas helped the patient feel comfortable. She was able to focus on the work of her labor. UCSF Provider

## Flourishing Partnership Highlights

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**The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP):** SisterWeb presented an overview of the Purposeful, Powerful, Practical (3Ps) data framework with Tulsa Birth Equity Initiative (TBEI). SisterWeb was also featured in a blog post that where we discussed economic security, emotional wellness, reproductive justice, and birth equity for Black families.

**Blossoming Birth Community Doula Training:** A full-spectrum doula training program created by SisterWeb and TBEI that prepares doulas to develop skills in perinatal emotional, physical, and educational support for birthing people and families in their communities. SisterWeb trained 20 community members as new doulas during this 40-hour training.

**2023 Time Use Study by the Doula Data Consortium:** Focusing on culturally congruent support especially within Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, the DDC carried out the 2023 Time Use Study to better understand the multifaceted roles and time commitments of community-based doulas. The organizations involved in this study are: Accompany Doula Care, Ancient Song, Birth Matters, Sistas Caring 4 Sistas, SisterWeb, TBEI.

**Pregnancy Family Village:** KBC shared resources and information about SisterWeb and led interactive birth classes.

**EMBRACE:** Central to this collaboration is the referral of clients, resource sharing, and coordinated care efforts, which streamline services and ensure comprehensive support. EMBRACE facilitates mentorship sessions and trainings for SisterWeb Community Doulas, offering ongoing guidance and professional development. Moreover, Markita Mays, a clinical social worker and a key member of the SisterWeb Advisory Committee (SWAC), plays a vital role in shaping and supporting our initiatives.

## Building a Community Doula Workforce

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- SisterWeb employs **7** benefited, full-time community doulas.
- SisterWeb provides ongoing birth training, professional development, and mentorship.
- SisterWeb Community Doulas reported an average of **9.32/10** when asked if they felt supported and encouraged by their mentors.
- **100%** of SisterWeb Community Doulas identify as the same race and ethnic group as their client.
- **4 BIPOC women** graduated from SisterWeb's four-month Doula Apprenticeship Program.
- **100%** of SisterWeb Doula Apprentices showed improvement in their skills and confidence to support clients during their perinatal journeys.



Read the  
FULL 2023-  
2024 Fiscal  
Year Impact  
Report

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