



The Alliance for Black NICU Families™ seeks to raise the voice of black families in the NICU and post-NICU in terms of creating racial and health equity through policy advocacy, professional educational initiatives, family educational initiatives, leadership mentoring of up and coming African American-led organizations and public outreach for assistance.

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OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION ON NICU NUTRITION

We the members of the Alliance for Black NICU Families have convened to make an official statement on the importance of nutrition in the NICU. We recognize and agree that:

- The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) provides the highest level of medical care of the hospital for newborn infants and that the revenue coming from the NICU quite often funds other units of the hospital.
- With such high-end and high-cost care, that all infants should have access to all forms of medical care, whether it be medical equipment, medications, environmental controls, parent access and the best, most appropriate level of nutrition possible.
- That the hospital must provide the highest quality and culturally competent care that's delivered to Birthing People as they are making nutritional decisions for their babies.
- That Black NICU Families deserve the same opportunities to access and provide their infants with an exclusive human milk diet that includes breastfeeding, pumping and donor milk and human milk derived human milk fortifier when necessary.
- That Black NICU Families must have equal access to lactation consultants, breast pumps, breastfeeding and breast pumping aids. If the NICU is unable to supply a Black NICU Birthing Parent with equal access to these materials, they should refer the parent to appropriate organizations that can assist this family.
- That Black NICU Families must be treated with equal respect in and out of the NICU in order to endeavor to provide for a human milk diet.
- It must be recognized that Black Birthing Parents as well as Black Non-Birthing Parents have an even higher level of stress in medical facilities than others.
- Medical Professionals must put aside judgment and recognize all attempts at breastfeeding and breast pumping as important and that no one is perfect at providing milk for their NICU infant.
- Non-Birthing Black NICU Parents must be welcome to the NICU, not only to partake in the care of their infant but also to assist the Birthing Parent as needed to provide an exclusive human milk diet.
- That Black NICU Families deserve the highest quality and culturally competent care and therein the highest quality of nutrition for their infant regardless of if the Birthing Parent is able to or not able to provide an exclusive human milk diet.
- Black NICU Parents must be educated about and provide their informed consent to the nutrition that is being provided to their infant in the NICU. This informed consent requires that medical providers explain all options to Black NICU Families, regardless of what is standard practice in that particular NICU and that the Black NICU Family provides consent for what nutrition is provided to their infant.