



Mary's Center

Quality healthcare. Stronger communities.

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Mary's Center Receives Amerigroup DC Grant to Address Infant Mortality

The grant will fund a proven prenatal care program called CenteringPregnancy®

Washington, DC — Today, Mary's Center announced they have received a \$25,000 grant from Amerigroup DC to grow the CenteringPregnancy® program for expecting parents. The funding will expand access to this culturally sensitive prenatal care program for 60 people in Washington, DC.

CenteringPregnancy® brings together expecting parents who are due within the same month for their prenatal care. It is an evidence-based, patient-centered model of group care designed to empower individuals and families, strengthen relationships between patients and providers, and build community through facilitated discussions and engaging activities.

"We are so grateful for this funding from Amerigroup DC to expand our high-quality prenatal care at Mary's Center to reach more at-risk community members," said Ingrid Andersson, Director of Nursing Education and Programs. "By increasing access to the essential services that boost positive pregnancy outcomes, CenteringPregnancy® helps keep our mothers and babies safe and healthy."

The Centering model combines an individual visit with a provider with a facilitated "circle-up time" where participants discuss topics such as caring for themselves physically and mentally, what to expect when giving birth, newborn care, and breastfeeding. Studies show that CenteringPregnancy® nearly eliminates racial disparities in preterm birth. Moms who participate have healthier babies, and families have better attendance for their well-child visits.

"As long-time supporters of Mary's Center and its activities, we are proud to provide support for its initiative to extend services for expectant mothers," said Adrian Jordan, Amerigroup DC Plan President.

Since 2012, Mary's Center has served over 450 women through CenteringPregnancy®. The Amerigroup DC funding will allow Mary's Center to train more staff as Centering facilitators,



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support more participants through virtual care, and prepare for the transition back to in-person Centering groups when it is safe for staff and participants.

To learn more about Mary's Center's prenatal care services, click [here](#).

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About Mary's Center

[Mary's Center](#) is a community health center serving over 60,000 people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds in the Washington, DC metro area for over 30 years. With an integrated model of health care, education, and social services, Mary's Center offers each participant individualized care on the path toward good health, stability, and economic independence. For more information, visit www.maryscenter.org.

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