



Centering Pregnancy is group prenatal care bringing women due at the same time out of the exam room and into a comfortable group setting. Centering is an evidence-based patient-centered model of prenatal care.

THE ISSUE

In Georgia, babies are born with low birth-weight every two hours. In Greater Atlanta, that is one in every 11 babies. Babies born with low birth-weight are more likely to suffer from severe developmental delays that are likely to carry forward through adolescence and adulthood. In addition to the emotional stress, the average hospitalization and special care costs in the first year are 10 times higher for a low birth-weight baby than for a baby born at a normal weight.

UNITED WAY'S ROLE

United Way leads the effort by investing in clinical practices, developing strategic direction through the Centering Georgia Statewide consortium and capturing best practice approaches for implementing a model of care, like Centering within the obstetrician community. As a priority, United Way continues to work closely with partner organizations such as The March of Dimes, Georgia Department of Public Health and the Centering Healthcare Institute, in order to increase program access in Georgia.

THE RESULTS

From 2010 to 2014, Centering Pregnancy provided support to 400 expectant mothers. Patients receive 10 times more time with their providers and are connected to patient-centered group care to promote greater patient engagement, increasing healthy birth weights by 7 percent.

