



Centering Pregnancy is an evidence-based, patient-centered model of group prenatal care. It works to bring patients out of the exam room and into a group setting, helping to build their community of support.

THE ISSUE

In Georgia, the leading causes of infant death are disorders related to preterm birth and low birth weight. In 2015, Georgia reported the birth of 12,489 low birth-weight babies. In Greater Atlanta alone, approximately 9.5% of babies are born with low birth weight. 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 is dedicated to improving child well-being by decreasing the rate of preterm and low weight babies. United Way leads the effort by investing in clinical practices and capturing best practice approaches for implementing a model of care, like Centering Pregnancy, within the obstetrician community. United Way continues to facilitate strategic direction through the Centering Georgia Statewide consortium, by working 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 and improving maternal and child health outcomes in Georgia.

THE RESULTS

In 2016, Centering Pregnancy provided support to over 700 expectant mothers in the Greater Atlanta area. Patients received 10 times more time with their providers and were connected to patient centered group care to promote greater patient engagement, increasing healthy birth weights. Currently, the Centering Georgia Statewide consortium has worked towards expanding and capturing best practice approaches for implementing this model of care. More information can be found on our new website: <http://www.centeringgeorgia.org/index.html>

