

OBJECTIVE OF THE GUIDANCE

This practical guidance is designed to build **Belonging, Love, Affinity, Community**, and **Kinship** and to share power with Black Girls, Women, Birthing Persons, and Mothers in all decisions, resources, services, policies, and programs that affect them. This guidance is to ensure that power is shared responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people most impacted.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Davies-Balch, S. Operational Guidance for Power-Sharing with Black Girls, Women, Birthing Persons, and Mothers. BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center. 9/08/2021.

The Operational Guidance for Power-Sharing with Black Girls, Women, Birthing Persons, and Mothers was reviewed by the BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC) Advisory Council.

Copyright Information

© 2021 BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center. All rights reserved. The material in this guidance may be copied and disseminated in any media in its original format, **without modification**, for informational, educational, and non-commercial purposes only. Any modification or use of the materials in any derivative work is prohibited without prior written permission from BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center or an authorized representative.

For correspondence, please contact:

BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center
Shantay R. Davies-Balch, MBA, CLE, Doula
President & CEO
Email: Shantay@Black-Enterprises.com
Website: <https://www.blackwpc.org>

OBJECTIVE OF THE GUIDANCE

This practical guidance is designed to build **Belonging, Love, Affinity, Community, and Kinship** and to share power with Black Girls, Women, Birthing Persons, and Mothers in all decisions, resources, services, policies, and programs that affect them. This guidance is to ensure that power is shared responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people most impacted.

**TAKING ACCOUNT**

Prioritize opportunities for the voices of Black girls, women, birthing persons, and mothers to be heard and shape decision-making at all phases.

**GIVING ACCOUNT**

Provide information to the community throughout, outlining what plans and commitments are, how and why decisions were made, and what the process is/was.

**BEING HELD TO ACCOUNT**

Provide Black girls, women, birthing persons, and mothers access to meaningfully evaluate the quality of their care, determine the effectiveness of care in addressing their needs, offer solutions to improve their care, and expect that their solutions will be adopted.

All of these dimensions should be informed by a vulnerability and age analysis—because people's visibility, voice, opportunities, and constraints are very much affected by their experiences and age.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT**1. CENTER BLACK VOICES**

Generate meaningful and relevant results and outcomes for Black girls, women, birthing persons and mothers—in accordance with their **specific needs, priorities, and preferences**.

2. RESPECT THEIR RIGHTS

Work in ways to **protect, facilitate, and enable** Black girls, women, birthing persons, and mothers to exercise their rights, including the right to high quality care, equitable access to services and resources, and **respect** their right to share their views and opinions about services, policies, and/or decisions that affect them.

3. BUILD TRUST

Build relationships of trust based on mutual respect, transparency, power-sharing, and two-way communication.

4. END-TO-END PARTICIPATION

End-to-end participation requires both integrating Black perspectives into the **content** of policies, services, and programs, and **representation** of Black people in the decision-making process.

BLACK Wellness & Prosperity Center (BWPC) is a research driven social enterprise founded to make equitable policies and programs more effective.

We are a catalyst to lift the well-being and prosperity in the Black community.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

BWPC developed this implementation strategy for engaging Black girls, women, birthing persons, and mothers—understanding that participation from the served community is always critical to the design of successful programs, projects, products, and services.

MINIMUM STANDARDS CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Black girls, women, birthing persons, and mothers have been consulted** and engaged in the needs assessment, intervention priorities, selection criteria and design of activities and/or other data reflecting their views and perspectives.
- ✓ **There are strategies and approaches to promote participation, facilitate trust,** and two-way communication and transparency throughout the initiative, project, decision process, or activity.
- ✓ **There is a plan to mitigate barriers and bottlenecks faced by Black people** exercising their right to information and respectful care and services.
- ✓ People are **provided with accessible and understandable key information** on 1) objectives and activities, 2) their rights and entitlements and 3) how to participate in and share in decisions that affect them.
- ✓ There are **accountability measures to mitigate anti-Black racism** at the individual and organizational level and training and capacity-building for those who serve Black people.
- ✓ **Systems are developed and/or coordinated to ensure programs, care and services** are culturally concordant and respond respectfully and holistically to diverse needs and priorities.

These minimum standards are developed with the recognition & acknowledgement of the existence and sanctioning of biases against Blackness in society. Great intentionality must be developed to counteract these biases.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. A budget is allocated** to compensate participation of Black girls, women, birthing persons, and mothers as **experts**.
- 2. There are resources dedicated to building capacity** for Black-led community partners, representatives, and leaders.
- 3. There is a plan to hire, invest in,** procure from, and/or work with Black-owned businesses.
- 4. Existing knowledge, capacities, and investments** are respected in the planning and allocation of resources.

