

Breastfeeding Systems Partnership Mapping Worksheet

A practical tool for organizations to understand connections, identify opportunities, and strengthen continuity of support.

WHAT IS THIS?

This worksheet helps organizations and community partners identify the people, programs, and systems that support breastfeeding families. It makes relationships, referral pathways, and opportunities for stronger coordination more visible.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Families may interact with many organizations throughout their breastfeeding journey. When those organizations are connected, families are more likely to experience consistent support, stronger referrals, and continuity of care. The goal is not to create more programs—it is to strengthen the connections between the programs and people already serving families.

HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHEET

1. Use with your team, partners, or community stakeholders.
2. Start with what exists today—not what you wish existed.
3. Map how families currently move between services and organizations.
4. Identify strong connections, gaps, and missed opportunities.
5. Consider where stronger partnerships could improve continuity for families.
6. Identify one to three opportunities to explore with partners.

KEY PRINCIPLE

Families experience care as one journey—even when services are delivered by multiple organizations.

Use this worksheet as a conversation starter. You do not need to have all the answers.

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1

Who Is Part of Your Breastfeeding Support System?

Part 1: Identify the system and map the family journey.

Organization / Program

Role in supporting breastfeeding families

Who do you serve?

Where do you connect with families?

Prenatal	Hospital / Birth	Early Postpartum
Pediatric Care	WIC	Lactation Support
Public Health	Community-Based Support	Other

Who do you currently partner with?

2

Map the Breastfeeding Journey

For each stage, consider who is involved, how families are connected, and what happens next.

Stage	Who Supports Families?	How Are Families Connected?	What Happens Next?
Prenatal			
Birth / Hospital			
Early Postpartum			
Pediatric Care			Augusta University School of Public Health

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3

Where Are the Connections?

Part 2: Understand relationships, gaps, and opportunities.

Who communicates with whom?

How do referrals happen?

Are referrals typically warm handoffs or passive referrals?

How does the referring organization know what happened after the referral?

Where does communication work especially well?

4

Where Are the Gaps or Missed Opportunities?

Where might families lose connection to support?

Are there organizations or services that should be connected but aren't?

Where could communication or referral processes be stronger?

What barriers make partnership or coordination difficult?

Remember: The purpose is to understand the system together—not to evaluate individual organizations.

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5

Where Could We Strengthen the System?

Part 3: Strengthen partnerships and move from mapping to action.

What is already working that we should build upon?

What partnership would make the biggest difference for families?

What is one connection or relationship we could strengthen?

What would a more connected breastfeeding support system look like in our community?

6

From Mapping to Action

One opportunity we want to explore:

Organizations / partners who should be involved:

Who could help champion this work?

Our first step:

What support or resources would we need?

ONE FINAL QUESTION

If families experienced breastfeeding support as ONE connected system, rather than a series of separate organizations, what would be different?