

## Inclusive, Impactful, Intentional.

Black women's participation in Mississippi communities keeps the state going. From the economy, to multiple caregiving roles, to family, faith, and community life, Black women value the same things as any Mississippian. But too often it feels the system works against us, and that hurdles — unreliable pay, poor and unhealthy food options, inadequate healthcare, and a lack of education and resources — prevent us from giving everything we can to our own families. For Mississippi to fulfill its promise to all citizens, it must improve policies with the intention of making things more equitable for the state's Black women.

### Healthcare

#### Catch Mississippi up with other states to cover moms after childbirth.

Pregnancy-related Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility is limited to 60 days after childbirth in Mississippi. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) included a temporary state option to extend that coverage up to 12 months postpartum. Seven states have approved or are pending to extend postpartum eligibility. Both pediatric and maternal health are improved with longer medical insurance benefits during the first year, a vulnerable time for the mother and child.

**In Mississippi, it is twice as dangerous for a mother to give birth & survive the first year postpartum as in other states.**

Source: Mississippi Mortality Report 2013-2016

### Workplace Justice

#### Support employers to provide paid family sick leave.

Families shouldn't have to choose between taking care of a sick child or putting food on the table. Paid time off helps families remain economically secure when they cannot work or when they need to bond with a new child or care for a family member. Paid family leave also helps employers retain their workforce during uncertain times.

### Child Care

#### Remove red tape for working moms using the Child Care Payment Program.

Experts, employers, and workers agree: one of the most critical supports for single, low-income, working mothers is affordable childcare. The Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) can help—yet Mississippi policymakers have imposed unnecessary red tape on the application process. We need the system to work for mothers who are doing their best to work.

### Voting Rights

#### Ensure every eligible Mississippian can register and vote without facing unnecessary obstacles.

Common-sense voting reforms, online voter registration, pre-election day voting, and expanded absentee voting to ensure every eligible Mississippian can register and cast a ballot without facing unnecessary obstacles.

### Criminal Justice Reform

#### Develop a vision for justice reform that keeps communities safe without restricting freedoms.

Black women value safe communities as much as any Mississippian. To truly reach that goal, however, includes the work of tackling racial profiling, police brutality, overcriminalization, mass incarceration, and recidivism.

Mississippi can reduce reliance on imprisonment and adjudication. To make communities safer, we support work release programs that provide work skills, prevailing wage, and the ability to provide for families and prevent further interaction with the system.