

# REIMAGINE SUPPORT

**WE ARE EXPERTS ON THE ISSUES & INJUSTICES THAT AFFECT US**

**WE ASPIRE TO LEAD A PLANNING & ADVOCACY PROCESS THAT INCLUDES & CENTERS DIVERSE VOICES & EXPERIENCES**

**PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES • RENEWED COMMUNITIES • YOUTH • UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS • DRUG USERS**

**AUTONOMY SAFETY RESILIENCE**  
FREE TO CHOOSE THE TYPE OF CARE I RECEIVE  
INFORMED CONSENT

- FAMILY AUTONOMY
- FINANCIAL STABILITY
- ACCESS TO SAFE HOUSING
- MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
- RESOURCE BANKS & BABY BOXES.
- COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION THAT INCLUDES BIRTH & PARENTING EDUCATION.

**OUR WORKS REQUIRES RESPONSIVE, FLEXIBLE & ADAPTABLE FUNDING STRUCTURES**

- EXPANDED MUTUAL AID
- INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
- GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THAT DON'T OVER BURDEN ORGANIZATIONS & THE COMMUNITIES THEY SUPPORT.

**HOLISTIC CARE**  
BEFORE, DURING & AFTER GIVING BIRTH  
GROUNDED IN

- FREE OF RACISM & DISCRIMINATION
- FREE OF STIGMATIZATION & CRIMINALIZATION OF BIRTHING PEOPLE WHO ARE USING DRUGS

**JUSTICE EQUITY**  
**COMPASSION RESPECT**

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!**

**DIVERSE NEEDS, ISSUES & EFFORTS OVERLAP & INTERSECT**

- GENDER JUSTICE
- REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
- DRUG LEGALIZATION
- PRISON ABOLITION
- MEDICAL ANTI-RACISM
- HARM REDUCTION
- NEONATAL & PERINATAL CARE
- PUBLIC HEALTH
- ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
- RACIAL JUSTICE

**WE FIRST CAME TOGETHER AS A GROUP IN MAY 2019**

**WE HAVE CONTINUED OUR WORK THROUGHOUT 2020**

**OUR VISION HAS EXPANDED**

**TO LEARN TOGETHER, DISCUSS IDEAS & SHARE SOLUTIONS**

**WE KNOW THAT PROFOUND SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATIONS ARE POSSIBLE!**

**THIS WILL BE OUR FOCUS AS WE JOIN FORCES TO LEAD THE WAY**

*on the Right Mind*  
ADRIANA CONTRERAS CORREAL - 2020

New York families have the right to be healthy, happy, and whole, but the policies and practices in the health care and the family regulation system are tearing families apart. Black and Brown pregnant people and their newborns are being tested for drugs without their knowledge or consent, which can result in children being taken from parents and fed into the foster system. This is a violation of our rights and it is an injustice! That's why JMacforFamilies, Movement for Family Power, The Bronx Defenders, and Drug Policy Alliance NY and a coalition of advocates are working to change New York State law to require informed consent for drug testing of pregnant people. Join us in reimagining support for our families!

## BLACK AND BROWN FAMILIES ARE UNFAIRLY TARGETED.

Pregnant and parenting Black and brown people in the United States, and here in New York City, are unfairly affected by systems of surveillance and criminalization that cause harm to families and communities - ACS and other the family regulation system agencies are among them. Medical care providers in low income communities are drug testing pregnant people, newly parenting people and their newborns without their knowledge or consent. Then, medical care providers turn over the results of those tests and any details from conversations they have with their patients to family regulation agents, even though in many cases they are not required to do so by law.

This practice, known as "test and report," and family regulation system involvement contributes to:

- Families being monitored and controlled by courts;
- Children being separated from their parents;
- Maternal incarceration and cycles of incarceration in our communities; and
- Trauma in our families and communities that spans generations.

# DRUG USE DOES NOT EQUAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT! A DRUG TEST IS NOT A PARENTING TEST!

New York State law is clear that a positive drug test in a parent or newborn, without evidence of any actual harm or risk of harm to the child, cannot be the basis for an abuse and neglect case finding. Still, in 2017 alone, one in four cases where a child was removed from their parents' care and placed in the foster system involved allegations of parental drug use. The overwhelming majority of parents who are accused of neglecting and abusing their children by using drugs are low-income Black and brown parents. In 2017 in the Bronx, nearly 6,000 parents – including 462 pregnant people – were investigated for allegations of drug use. Over 40% of those parents were found to be guilty of abuse or neglect by the caseworker and placed on a registry with far-reaching consequences for their employment prospects and other things. This issue is part of a larger system that tears families apart and contributes to the over-incarceration of Black and brown people. The family regulation system is not a system of support – its main purpose is to investigate, control, and punish families.

## WE'RE FIGHTING BACK!

All people have a right to be informed of and meaningfully consent to or reject drug tests for themselves and their newborns, especially when seeking reproductive health care. New York State Senate Bill 4821 / Assembly Bill 4285 will:

- Prohibit drug and alcohol testing and screening of you and your newborn unless that person provides verbal and written consent or unless it is needed for a medical emergency
- Require your healthcare provider to tell you that there is a risk that if you or your newborn tests positive, they may report you to family regulation system authorities
- Require your healthcare provider to tell you that you can refuse a drug and/or alcohol test and you can refuse to answer questions about your drug and or alcohol use
- Prohibit healthcare providers from denying you medical care if you refuse a drug and/or alcohol test
- Require your healthcare provider to explain in writing what the test is

We have the power to reimagine the support we need! We must:

- Dismantle and divest from systems that separate parents and children and that harm our families and communities
- Ensure the rights of people who use drugs are respected, including pregnant people
- Support pregnant and parenting people who use drugs without reporting them to the family regulation system
- Keep families together and healthy with better social support such as food, housing, and a living wage – not more policing

We have the power to reimagine family safety and wellbeing. We have the power to reimagine support for pregnant and parenting people who use drugs. We have the power to create alternatives to CPS that work for families. You can be part of the movement.



**NEW YORK FAMILIES NEED SUPPORT, NOT SURVEILLANCE AND SEPARATION!  
JOIN THE FIGHT, SIGN UP AT [MOVEMENTFORFAMILYPOWER.ORG/REIMAGINE-SUPPORT](https://MOVEMENTFORFAMILYPOWER.ORG/REIMAGINE-SUPPORT).**