# Reproductive Well-Being Network Statement of Principles

*(Organization/Person)* supports a culture in which there is a system of support that makes it possible for every person—no matter who they are or where they live—to achieve reproductive well-being. A culture of reproductive well-being is one in which all people have access to the supports and services they need to determine if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child and to support a healthy start for the next generation. To enable this to happen, *(we/I)* will work towards building, aligning, and enhancing systems of support that enable a culture of reproductive well-being.

*(We/I)* recognize that reproductive well-being is inextricably connected to a person’s overall well-being, and that this work, in isolation, will not address the broader inequities and social determinants of health that stand between marginalized people and their overall well-being. *(We/I)* also know that there is tremendous work to be done to make reproductive well-being a reality for all people. As leaders and professionals in this collective space, *(I am/We are)* committed to coming together to catalyze institutional, policy, and practice change to build and scale a system of support that makes reproductive well-being possible for every person. Simultaneously, *(we/I)* will ensure that actions we take are truly meeting the needs of the people *(we are/I am)* working to support.

The vision and guiding principles of the Reproductive Well-Being Movement are informed by and will continue to follow principles of the reproductive justice movement. If successful, our work will contribute to the overall goals of the reproductive justice movement, but our work is narrower in focus, and is in no way intended to replace or duplicate the work of that broader movement. *(We are/I am)* committed to working in a culturally-responsive, linguistically-appropriate, and justice-informed way that authentically involves, listens to, and lifts up the voices of the community. *(We/I)* recognize that reproductive well-being is just one aspect of people’s lives, *(We/I)* will work to join hands with other movements focusing on important aspects of well-being and equity.

*(We/I)* recognize that this movement will require us to fundamentally change the narrative and practices for women’s health, maternal and child health, and health more generally. To stimulate this change, we first need to acknowledge and understand the underlying assumptions and considerations that exist which may facilitate or impede transformative work. The assumptions, considerations, and guiding principles listed below provide a common foundation on which to build this movement.

# Guiding Principles

* We value first and foremost the overall health, well-being, and self- determination of all people.
* We recognize that equity does not currently exist when it comes to deciding if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child, and thus these issues must be considered from an intersectional and broader social determinants of health lens.
* We recognize and respect that not everyone will, or will be able to, make a decision about if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child. We will work to build a culture in which all individuals will be treated with respect and be cared for without judgment.
* We value the voices and lived experience of the people whom we aim to serve.
* We recognize the complexity of decision-making and intentions about family formation, and support individuals, couples, families, and communities in seeking reproductive autonomy, health, and well-being.
* We will work tirelessly to ensure that everyone has the information, access to services, and other supports necessary to have a child if and when they want to and to support a healthy start for the next generation.
* We will use best available science, evidence, and guidance from the community to develop our solutions.

# Approach

We recognize that no singular organization or sector can achieve our vision on its own. It will take a multi-pronged and multi-sectoral effort to make this all possible. Thus, we will build a collective of thought leaders, community voices, and influential institutions that supports necessary culture and systems change, including:

* Enculturating a collective **narrative** that promotes the vision and principles of the movement.
* Working towards and monitoring shared **measurements** on short-, medium-, and long-term progress.
* Establishing a **network** among those at the national, state, and local levels committed to reproductive well-being that builds the evidence-base, shares best practices, and aligns our assets to optimize our efforts to transform the culture.
* Advocating for and advancing **policies**, regulations, consensus statements, and national recommendations that support various systems and practices that ensure that all people can determine if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child and to support a healthy start for the next generation.
* Building and supporting the capacity of **places** to establish a broad-based system of support to ensure that people have what they need to determine if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child and to support a healthy start for the next generation.
* Leading and building the **capacity** of our constituents and stakeholders towards adopting this integrated and supportive approach in their practice.
* Ensuring that all of our efforts are developed, implemented, and measured in a **culturally-responsive** and **linguistically-appropriate** way.

**Assumptions and Considerations**

We recognize that this work is transformational and nascent; thus, we must acknowledge the following realities we seek to address:

* Not everyone believes they have autonomy or choice.
* Not everyone possesses the same level of decision-making power.
* We acknowledge and respect ambivalence or deliberate decisions to not plan pregnancy.
* It's important to meet people where they are.
* This culture change will require us to address the socioecological factors, not just individual behavior. A policy systems approach will be essential, and we cannot assume that current policies will fit neatly into this movement.
* Science and lived experience must be anchors in this work. The work should be evidenced-based and evidence-informed, while also grounded in community context and lived experience.
* It will be essential to ensure that our work is informed by the reproductive justice movement.
* We will eliminate the cultural assumption that every woman is “pre-pregnant” and build a new norm that values the well-being of everyone.

# Ultimate Measure of Success

Our movement will be successful if everyone—no matter who they are or where they live—is achieving reproductive well-being—whether they are to have children or not have children—and to be able to parent the children they do have in safe and supportive communities. Over time, we will measure this through progress on existing markers, such as reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality, as well as to define new and more inclusive measures for reproductive well-being. We know that new measures of reproductive well-being are essential to changing the way we approach the challenge and truly measuring our success.