

# EXPLOITING INEQUITY:

## A Pandemic's Gendered and Racial Toll on the Women and Families of North Carolina

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**"This virus exploits inequities."**

- Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina

*The driving force behind this report is ensuring that **representation of women and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color** is present in (1) decision-making bodies, (2) policies that are drafted and passed, and (3) support/investment in organizations that center racial and gender justice.*

## WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

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**Increase state-level funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs and provide emergency support for child welfare in line with federal CARES Act funding.**

# 75%

of NC domestic violence service providers reported increased demands for services during the onset of the pandemic.  
(NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

## Achieve universal healthcare coverage by expanding Medicaid and protecting public health. Ensure that coverage includes mental health services.

North Carolina is **one of 12 states that has not expanded Medicaid.**

Women enrolled in Pregnancy-Related Medicaid are **dis-enrolled when they deliver**, leaving them without coverage at a critical postpartum moment.

### Invest in the care economy:

- **prioritize affordable childcare**
- **adequately protect and compensate essential workers, including women and specifically childcare providers and educators (pre-K-12)**
- **mandate paid family leave**

In North Carolina, **childcare can cost more than tuition for an in-state public college.**

In North Carolina, women and Black, Indigenous, and people of color represent a **disproportionate share of essential workers.**