

Kent County, MI

Liminality Consulting
Anissa Eddie, Pritzker Fellow



Anissa convened and facilitated an early childhood data strategy team in an effort to advance data sharing across early childhood systems and enable cross-sector partners to make equitable decisions resulting in improved outcomes for infants and toddlers in Kent County.

Anissa also convened and facilitated the Birth Equity Strategy Team as they developed the Day One Doula Collective, an effort to decrease disparate birth outcomes for women of color and increase the percentage of babies born at a healthy birth weight countywide.

After supporting the community's multi-pronged approach to increase infant and toddler access to high quality child care, Anissa helped to form the Kent Child Care Crisis Response Team in response to Governor Gretchen Whitmer's COVID-19 Child Care Executive Order and Stay at Home Executive Order to better coordinate efforts and align activities for local child care providers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Anissa supported the community's efforts to increase political will and engagement for early childhood by serving on various workgroups and steering committees addressing systemic barriers for children PN-3, providing strategic support for the Ready By Five Millage, and serving on the steering committee for the Pritzker State Grant.

ANISSA'S FELLOWSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- + Elevating the work of her organization to draw in additional funders to provide sustainable funding for the community's initiative.
- + Serving on advisory boards and work groups with the aim to elevate the PN-3 work across the community.
- + Providing support around convening and coalition building of an early childhood collaborative, multi-sector, partnered movement connected to the community's Cradle-to-Career Initiative.
- + Supporting the community's child care goals by working closely with the quality rating team to develop and implement a strategic communication plan to promote high-quality child care with messaging for parents and providers in partnership with the Shared Services Project Manager at First Steps Kent.
- + Connecting the local business community to the PN-3 efforts around child care workforce development by serving on the Early Childhood Development Working Group of Talent 2025 and providing supplies during the COVID-19 crisis response for child care providers.
- + Helping to secure over \$500,000 to launch a community-based birth equity pilot program that will increase access to doulas of color.

CAPSTONE PROJECT:

The 21st Century Village: How Activating “Systemness” Can Increase Equitable Outcomes for Infants, Toddlers and their Families

FORMAT

Webinar and report

TARGET AUDIENCE

Cross-sector stakeholders, including parents and families, early childhood partners, business leaders, policy makers, and funders

LINKS

[Link to the report.](#)

[Link to the webinar recording.](#)

SUMMARY:

This project describes the changes and improvements in Kent County for infants, toddlers, and their families through a modern day example of the village mentality and an operationalized “systemness” approach. It includes highlights of the Pritzker Fellowship work in Kent County, along with progress updates on the Ready by Five Millage and other key components of the community’s early childhood work between late 2018 to mid 2020. This presentation and subsequent report aim to catalyze the work ahead and communicate a clear call to action with recommendations to inform the community’s next steps.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS:

- + Inclusive and relational facilitation
- + Ability to think in the language of process
- + Building rapport with local elected officials to advance progressive legislation
- + Engaging with and developing buy-in from diverse stakeholders
- + Ability to inspire others and spark action
- + Results-based project management

AREAS OF FOCUS AND EXPERTISE:

- + Racial equity;
- + Political will and engagement;
- + Maternal health, infant mortality;
- + Healthy births;
- + Doula programs;
- + Data sharing;
- + Shared services;
- + Cross-sector coalitions;
- + Public policy; and
- + Workforce development

ANISSA’S POST-FELLOWSHIP PLANS:

Anissa is pursuing a PhD in Human Development & Family Studies at Michigan State University with an emphasis in Child Development. Her work focuses on early childhood policies related to family supports, child care, and early childhood education. The scope of her research examines how public policy can be leveraged to increase equitable outcomes for young children and families – particularly within the contexts of birth equity, identity development and social determinants of health. Anissa also has a specific line of research focused on racial socialization in early childhood. In addition to starting her doctoral work, Anissa founded Liminality Consulting in August 2020. Her practice offers support in the areas of facilitation, project management, strategic planning, and systems building in the field of early childhood.

“Early childhood systems building has the ability to both reconstruct the present and transform the future. I am driven by the beautiful collision of resistance and hope that is found in this work.”