



1555 River Park Drive, #107, Sacramento, CA 95815  
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## **The SOL Project Launches “Breathe for Two: Supporting Black Moms & Babies” A Community-Driven Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative in Partnership with UC Davis**

**Sacramento, CA** — The SOL Project (Saving Our Legacy: African Americans for Smoke-Free Safe Places) is proud to announce **Breathe for Two: Supporting Black Moms & Babies** as the official name of its **Maternal Smoking Cessation Initiative**, a two-year community-based research project running from **July 2025 through June 2027**.

This initiative is a partnership between **The SOL Project and the UC Davis Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center**, funded by the **Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP)**. The program was developed to address rising disparities in tobacco and cannabis use and smoke exposure impacting Black pregnant and postpartum moms in Sacramento County.

“Breathe for Two” centers the voices, lived experiences, and cultural realities of Black families by creating safe spaces for conversation, education, and engagement. The initiative supports pregnant and postpartum moms who want to quit smoking or reduce exposure to secondhand tobacco and cannabis smoke—helping families build healthier, smoke-free homes for themselves and their babies.

As part of this effort, The SOL Project is currently recruiting **pregnant and postpartum moms**, as well as **maternal health providers**—including doulas, midwives, physicians, coaches, and other professionals—to participate in two separate focus groups. Insights gathered will help shape **practical, technology-based learning tools** designed to improve culturally responsive cessation support.

All focus group participants will receive a **\$100 Amazon Gift Card** for completing their session. To participate in either of the focus groups, visit <https://thesolproject.com/breathe-for-two/>

Guiding this work is a diverse and highly respected [Community Advisory Board](#) made up of leaders with lived experience, clinical and public health expertise, and deep roots in the community.

- Charmaine Adams, Certified Birth Doula and CITI Researcher
- Y’Lonn Burris, Project Coordinator, African American Statewide Coordinating Center
- Dr. Brittany Chambers Butcher, Community Health Scientist focused on reproductive health equity
- Tanesa Calhoun, Mother and Sacramento resident
- Kairis Joy Chiaji, Sacramento-based doula, educator, and solo-preneur
- Aron King, MSN, RN, Healthcare leader and PhD student, UC Davis
- Dr. Kimberly McLaughlin, Obstetrician-Gynecologist
- Dr. J. Bianca Roberts, Family Physician and President, Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society
- Shirley Shelton, Retired public servant with 40 years of service to the State of California
- Leona Spivey, Program Manager, Black Mothers United
- Yolanda Stevenson, Director of Social Services, Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center and Meadowview Black Child Legacy Campaign

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Together, these advisors bring perspectives from maternal and infant health, reproductive justice, healthcare, social services, research, and grassroots leadership, ensuring that the initiative is informed by both professional knowledge and the real experiences of Black families. Their collective guidance reflects a shared commitment to advancing equity, strengthening community driven solutions, and creating healthier, smoke free environments where Black mothers and babies can breathe easier, live healthier, and truly thrive.

For more information about this research project, visit:  
<https://thesolproject.com/maternal-smoking-cessation/>

**Media Contact:**  
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### **About the Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center (TCPRC)**

The Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center (TCPRC) is a multidisciplinary collaborative based at the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center in Sacramento. TCPRC brings together academic researchers, community and advocacy organizations, and policy stakeholders to advance equitable tobacco cessation solutions across Northern California and beyond. Its mission is to strengthen healthcare access, improve the quality of care delivery, support community engagement, and advance health equity through evidence-based policy research, stakeholder collaboration, and workforce development.

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### **About The SOL Project**

Saving Our Legacy: African Americans for Smoke-Free Safe Places (The SOL Project) advocates for healthy, smoke-free communities for African Americans and other populations disproportionately impacted by tobacco use and social inequities. The SOL Project works to advance policies that reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, support smoke-free multi-unit housing and outdoor public spaces, address social determinants of health, and expand access to culturally responsive education and free cessation resources through partnerships with faith-based and community organizations.

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