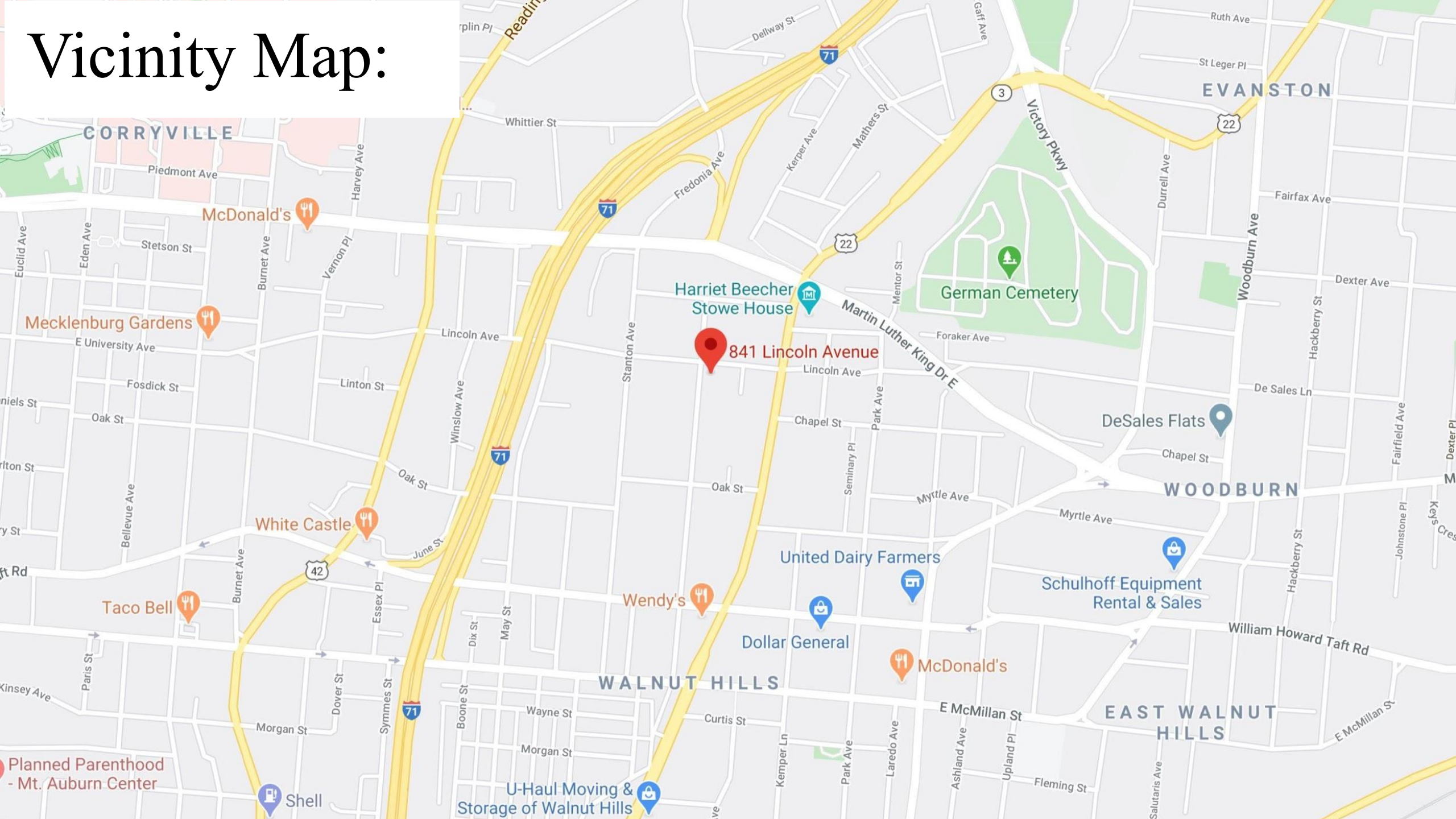




Cincinnati
BIRTH
CENTER

Vicinity Map:



The Building:





Meet Meghan!

My name is Meghan Nowland. I am the owner of the Cincinnati Birth Center, experienced midwife, doula, and lactation consultant. I have a bachelor's degree in midwifery from the Midwives College of Utah and moved to Cincinnati with a passion to improve Ohio's maternity care. I regularly volunteer teaching community childbirth education classes and for the Kentucky Home Birth Coalition, and am a founder of Ohio's chapter of National Association of Certified Professional Midwives. Before moving to Ohio I lived in San Antonio Texas for two years and worked at Birth Center Stone Oak and with home birth midwives Robin Rabenschlag, Julie Hatfield, and Janet Dirmeyer. I earned my CPM certification in 2014, and have been practicing as a home birth midwife ever since. In 2017 I became certified as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. Most recently I've been involved with legislative efforts to increase access to midwives and serving on the Kentucky Midwives Advisory Council, creating regulations for licensure of CPMs.

What are we trying to do?



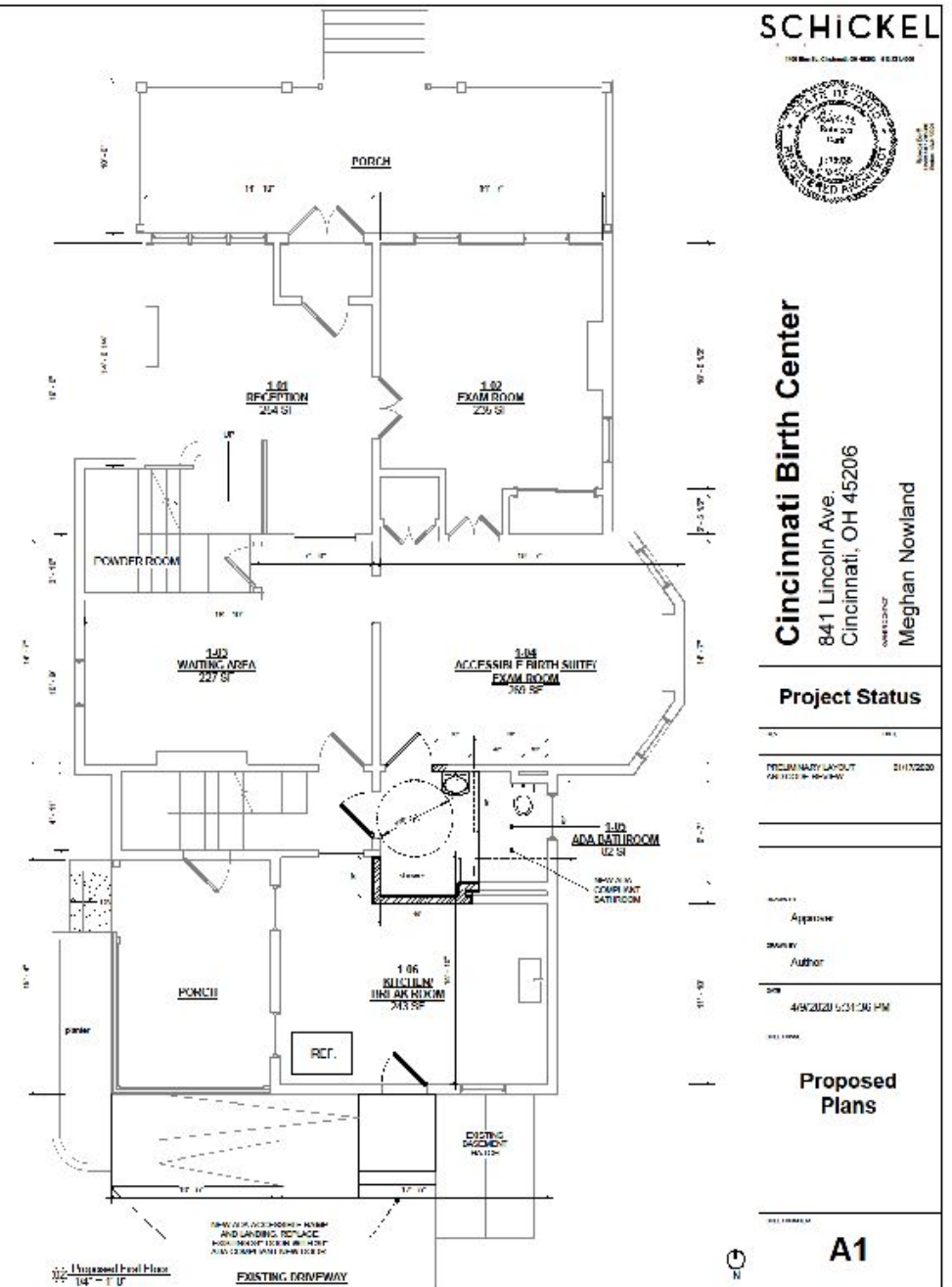
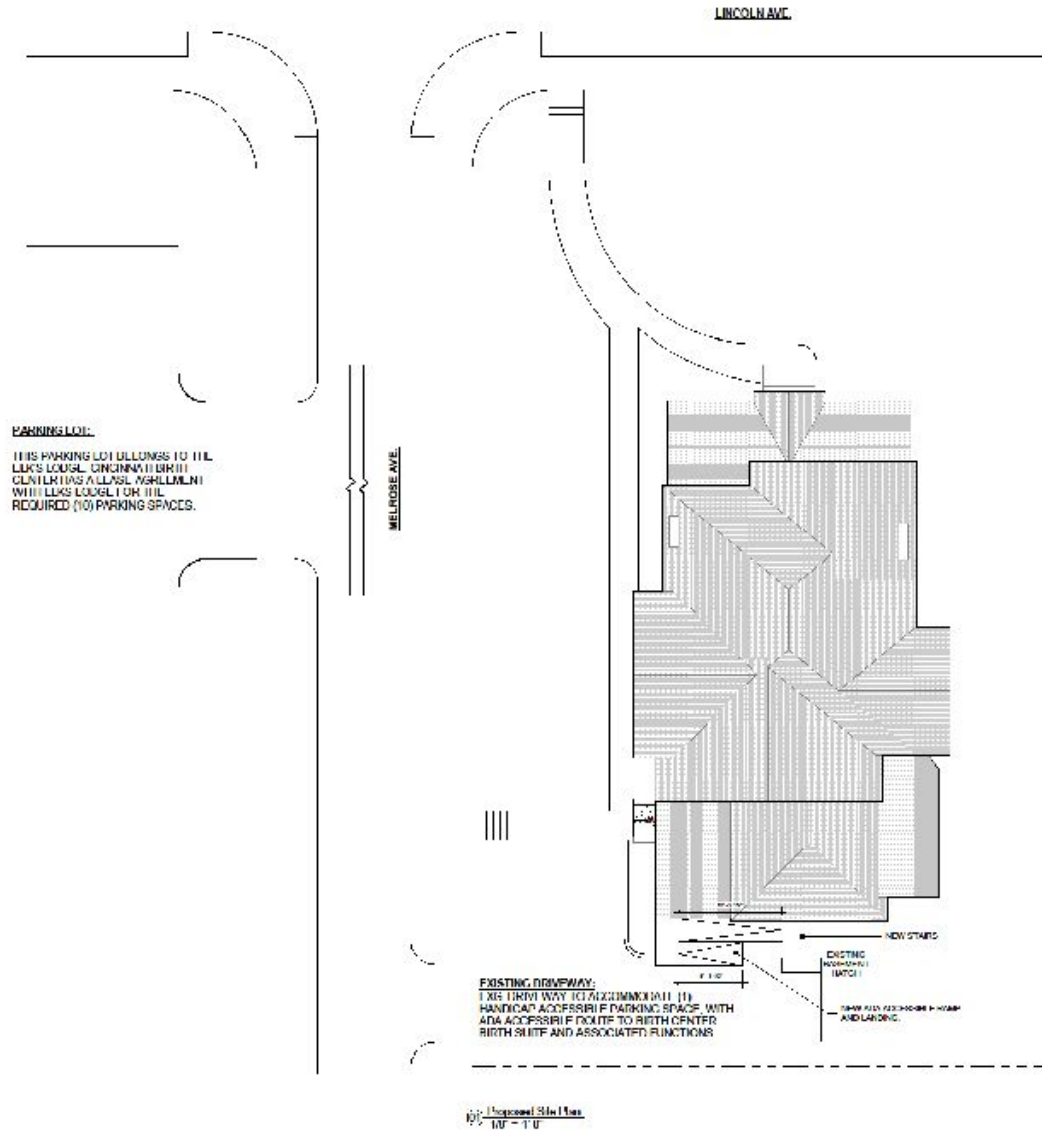
Cincinnati has some of the worst infant mortality rates in the world. Our goal is to create a Birth Center that will have a direct impact on this problem, by offering a proven, high quality, personal alternative for birth.

When parents are listened to, informed about their options, and seen as active participants, it leads to satisfying birth experiences. When families have a birth experience they feel proud of, it facilitates an easier and happier postpartum. Studies show women remember their birth experience for the rest of their life! In ancient Chinese medicine it's believed when mothers are properly nourished after they have a baby, they emerge stronger and healthier than before. We've seen that to be true and believe positive birth experiences increase quality of life! Our center seeks to improve quality of life for parents, babies, midwives, student midwives, and other professionals in this field.



Architectural Plans:

- No change to exterior of building
- Add handicapped accessible entrance to rear of building
- Add handicapped accessible bathroom to interior
- Designate existing driveway parking space to handicapped use
- Lease agreement in place for parking in existing lot across the street.



Why a Birth Center?

A birth center provides a home-like environment with a whole-person approach to pregnancy and birth. Birth centers make it a priority to help people feel supported and safe before, during, and after normal pregnancy, labor, and birth.

Birth centers have a direct impact on decreasing infant mortality because the model supports healthier pregnancies with fewer preterm births and low birth weight infants, supported birth experiences with fewer interventions, lower rates of cesarean section, postpartum education and support, and higher rates of breastfeeding.

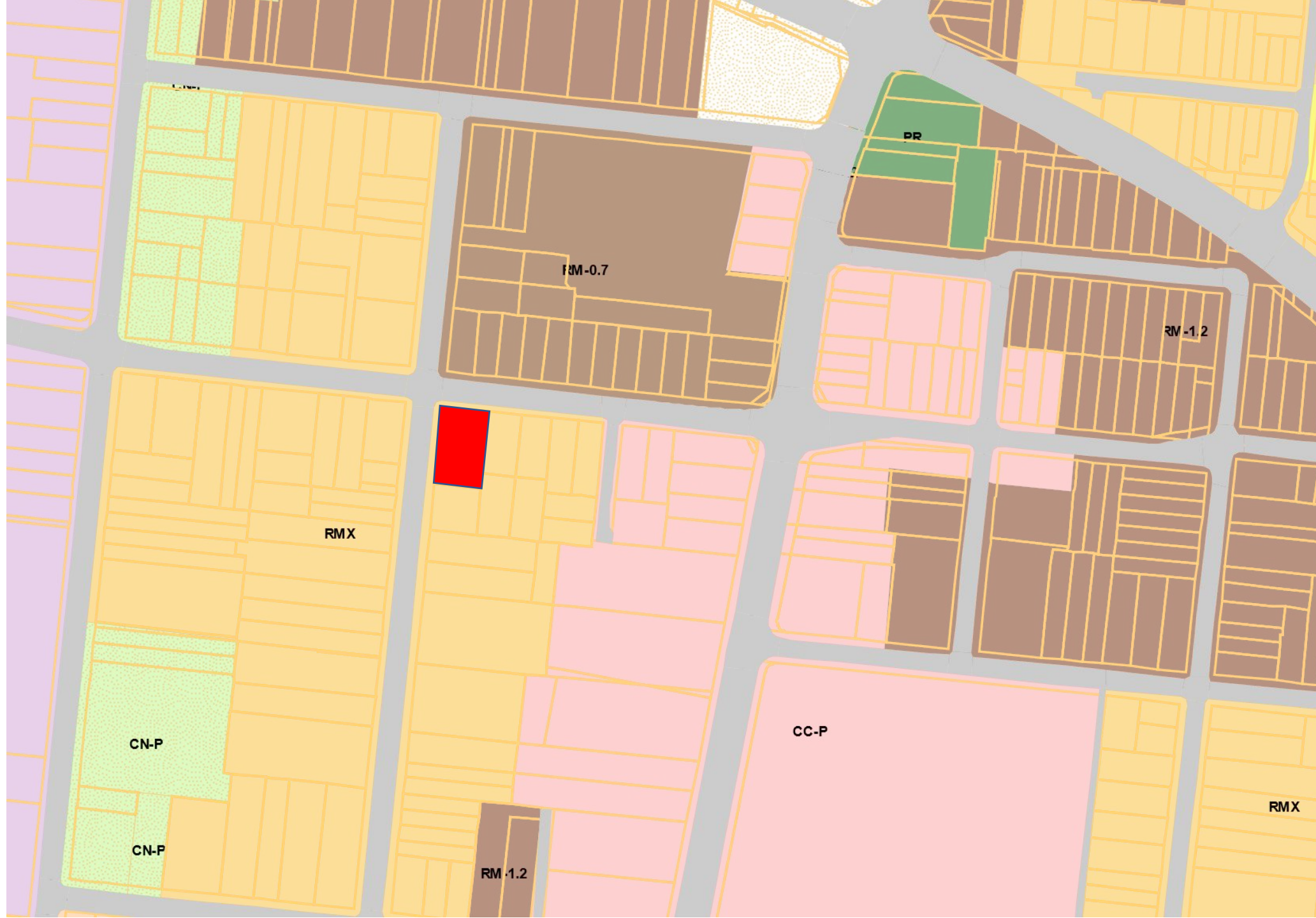
The healthcare provided at a birth center is individualized. Birth centers have highly-qualified professionals (midwives, nurses, obstetricians, etc.) who work collaboratively to provide the highest level of care.



States where midwives are most accessible have the best outcomes for mothers and babies. The United States is facing an increasingly severe shortage of maternity care providers. The Cincinnati Birth Center will provide a space and opportunities to obtain clinical training for student midwives, with a focus on training midwives and birth workers of color. This would improve access to midwives in Ohio and solve shortages in maternity care providers for all birthing people, especially improving outcomes for women of color.

What are we asking for?

A letter of support from the Walnut Hills Community Council, to obtain a zoning change for 841 Lincoln Ave. to match the zoning across the street, from RMX-Residential Mixed to RM0.7 Residential Multi-family, a zoning category which will allow a medical office use.



Why Walnut Hills?

Cincinnati Birth Center will be the only freestanding birth center open in Ohio and Kentucky. Cincinnati Birth Center is located in Walnut Hills because it sits on the border of Avondale and near several major hospitals. The corner of Lincoln and Melrose is near I-71, I-75, and can be easily accessed by walking, driving, biking, or public transportation.





Thank You!