

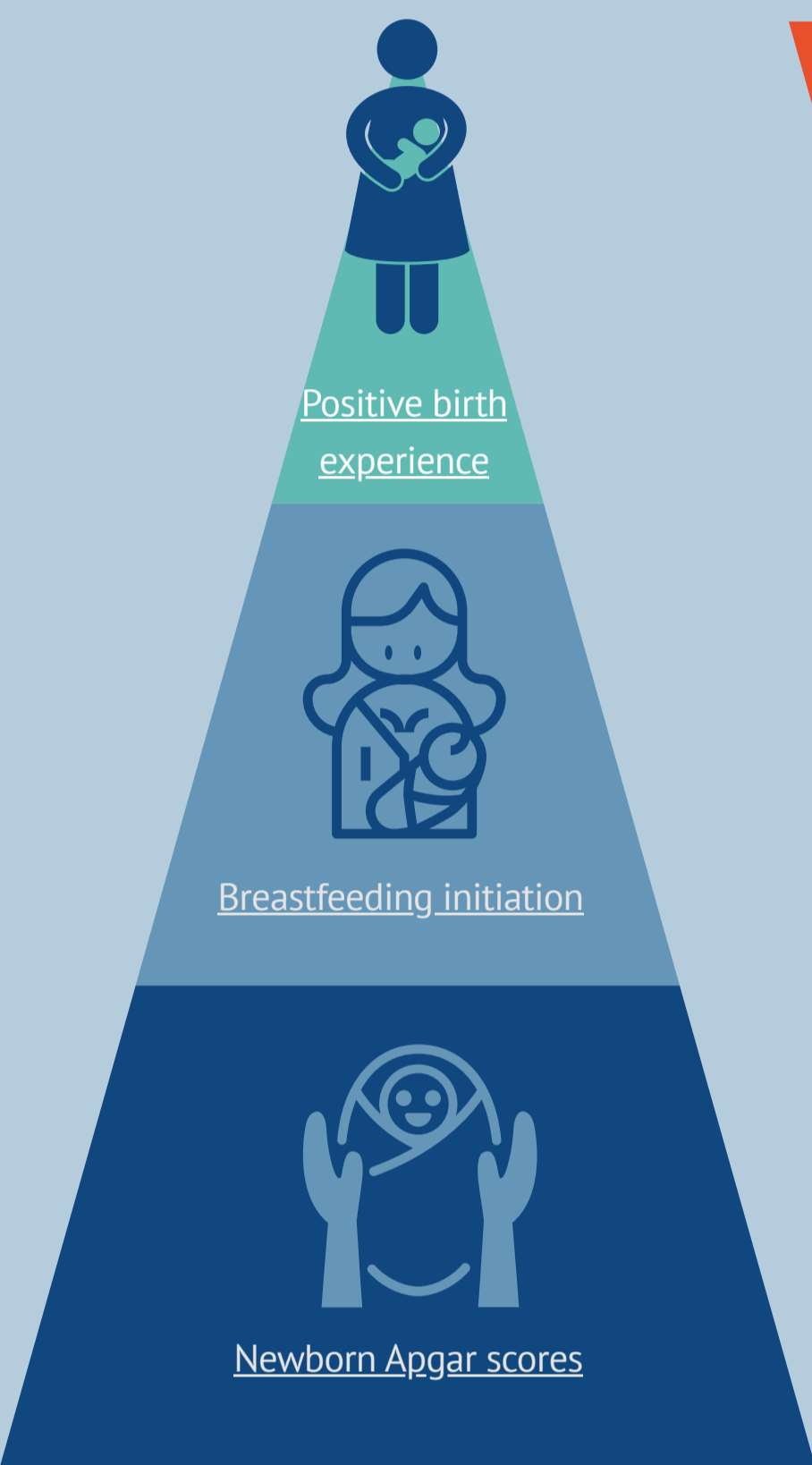


A doula is a trained professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to women before, during, and shortly after childbirth to help them achieve the healthiest, most satisfying experience possible.

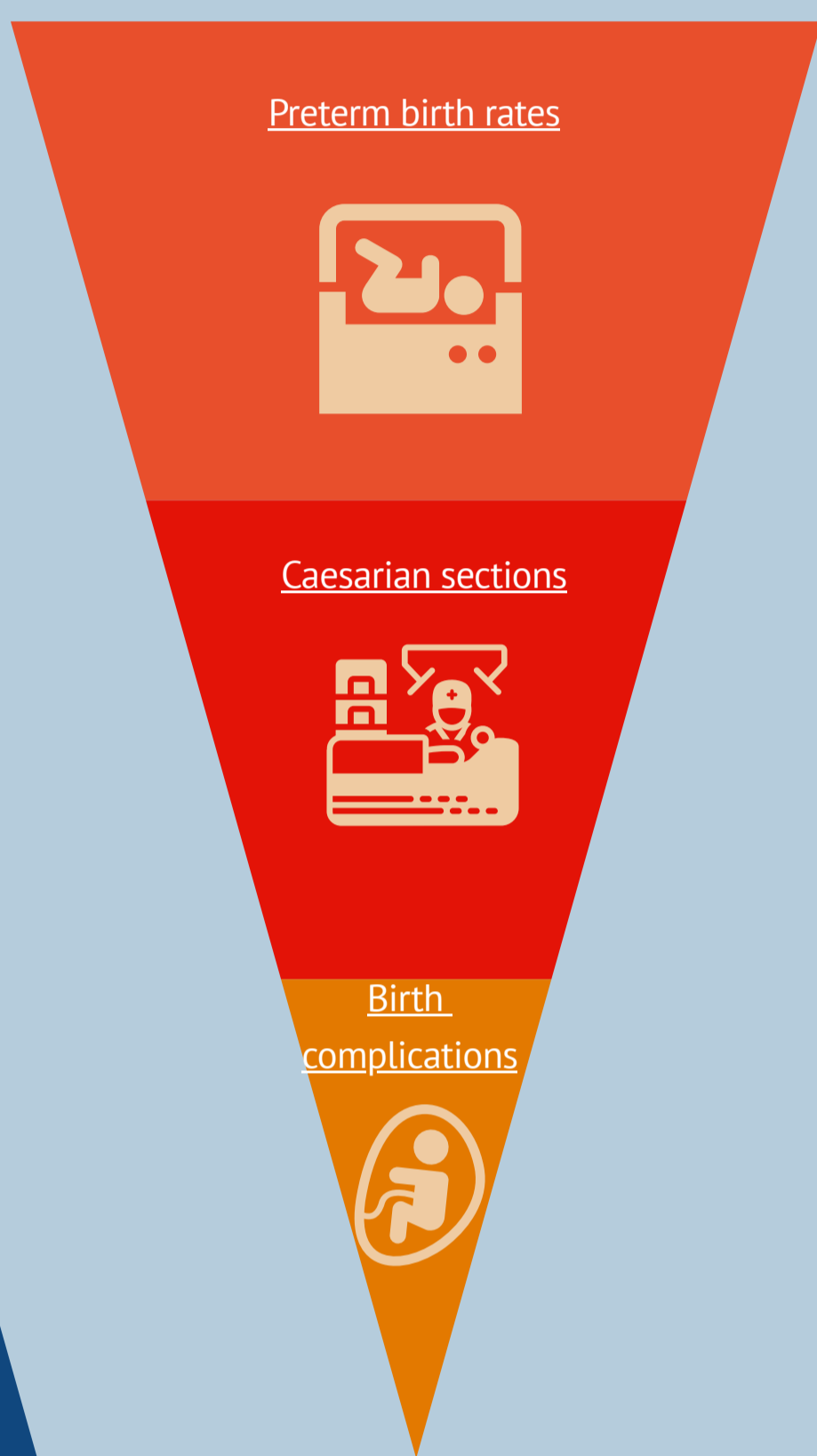
Doulas can have a positive impact on improving maternal health and reducing racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.

Black and Native American women are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women. Culturally competent doulas are able to provide support and care to improve birth outcomes for women of color.

Doulas Improve:



Doulas Reduce:



State Strategies to Provide Doula Services for Medicaid-covered Pregnant Women



Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant:

The Indiana Safety PIN (Protecting Indiana's Newborns) Program is a statewide infant mortality reduction program administered by the Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division and supported by the state's Title V MCH Services Block Grant. It supports community-based organizations, such as the Speak Life Doula Program, which provides doula services to pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid.



Medicaid

Oregon's Medicaid program has covered doula services as a preventive service since 2017. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) covers two prenatal and two postpartum sessions and doula support during labor and delivery.



Minnesota's Medicaid program has covered doula services as an extended service for pregnant women since 2014. Up to seven sessions with a doula, which include prenatal and postpartum care and support during labor and delivery, are covered.



Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Medicaid-contracted MCOs have the option to cover doula services for all members or specific populations as a value-added service. For example, a Nebraska MCO covered doulas for pregnant women up to age 21 years who were engaged with the foster care system and lived in a group or maternity home, and had minimal parent support.