



Department of Medicaid

John R. Kasich, Governor
John B. McCarthy, Director

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2016

Mallory Bailey, Public Information Officer, Ohio Department of Medicaid

614-752-4118 | mallory.bailey@medicaid.ohio.gov

Ohio Funding Three Projects in Cleveland Area to Combat Infant Mortality

Collaborative efforts aim to improve birth outcomes and reduce the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality

COLUMBUS – As part of the Kasich Administration’s efforts to combat infant mortality, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has announced new investments in three community initiatives in Cuyahoga County aimed at reducing infant mortality.

The [2014 Infant Mortality Data Report](#) from the Ohio Department of Health showed slight improvement in Ohio’s infant mortality rate, down from 7.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013 to 6.8 in 2014. However, Ohio’s rate – especially the black infant mortality rate – remains too high and exceeds the national average.

In Ohio Governor John R. Kasich’s last budget, Ohio allocated \$26.8 million over two years to support community-driven proposals to combat infant mortality at the local level and enhance coordination among various agencies that provide care for women and infants at risk. Together with its five contracted managed care plans, Ohio Medicaid has engaged local leaders in nine Ohio communities – Butler, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark, and Summit counties – to identify innovative projects that will connect women and infants to quality health care and care management.

“This is a new approach to combatting infant mortality in Ohio,” said John McCarthy, state Medicaid director. “Rather than pursuing one-size-fits-all remedies that lack results, we are looking to initiatives that address the specific needs of individual communities.”

Through First Year Cleveland, Ohio Medicaid awarded funding to support the following proposals:

- The number of women participating in centering pregnancy programs at two Federally Qualified Health Centers will be increased to a total of 375 women. Four part-time program coordinators and four full-time midwives will be hired and medical equipment and computers will be purchased to support this effort.
Total Funding Amount: \$760,000
- The capacity of home visiting programs will be increased in targeted communities through partnerships with MomsFirst, the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, and the Nurse Family Partnership and Doula programs to support approximately 800 pregnant women.
Total Funding Amount: \$2,000,000
- The Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative will expand their Bootcamp for New Dads program to serve 600 fathers in the targeted communities.
Total Funding Amount: \$200,000

50 W. Town Street, Suite 400
Columbus, Ohio 43215

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider

Total Medicaid investment across the three projects is \$2,960,000.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid serves more than 3 million residents across Ohio. More than 80 percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries are served through the five contracted Medicaid managed care plans – Buckeye Health Plan, CareSource, Molina Healthcare, Paramount Advantage, and United Healthcare Community Plan.

More information on Medicaid managed care can be found [here](#).