



Department of Medicaid

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

NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio Funding Four Projects in Youngstown 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 four community initiatives in Mahoning 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 the M/Y Baby’s 1st Coalition of Mahoning County, Ohio Medicaid awarded funding to support the following proposals:

- Two community health workers will be hired to support both the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative and Resources Mothers programs.
Total Funding Amount: \$780,450.28
- The Mercy Health Youngstown’s CenteringPregnancy® Program will train 15 additional centering facilitators and establish CenteringPregnancy® programs at two new sites in Mahoning County.
Total Funding Amount: \$479,626.50
- Two care coordination agencies will be added into the HUB network and four community health workers will be hired to staff the agencies until the HUB can independently support care coordination agency payments through its Medicaid managed care contracts.
Total Funding Amount: \$932,071.00

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- Transportation services will be provided by Affluent Travel/Sutton Tours for pregnant and parenting women engaged in the HUB, CenteringPregnancy®, Resource Mothers/ Empowering Moms, OIMRI or Help Me Grow programs.

Total Funding Amount: \$249,600.00

Total Medicaid investment across the four projects is \$2,441,747.78.

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](#).