



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

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2016**

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### **Ohio Funding Nine Projects in Dayton 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 nine community initiatives in Montgomery 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 Think for Two, Ohio Medicaid awarded funding to support the following proposals:

- Home visiting will be increased for pregnant women in targeted communities through partnerships with Five Rivers Health Centers, Help Me Grow Brighter Futures, Southview, and the Wesley Community Center.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$654,928*
- The services provided by LifeStages, Samaritan Centers for Women’s CenteringPregnancy program, will be enhanced to include no-cost childcare during appointments, and no cost on demand transportation to and from the program appointments.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$40,000*
- The Five Rivers Health Centers Healthy Start Program will be extended to all patients of the Five Rivers Center for Women’s Health and focus on the most high-risk communities.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$501,340*

- Screening, Brief Interventions, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) trainings will be provided at no charge for area health care providers, community health workers, home visiting nurses, social workers, and others in contact with pregnant women in high-risk communities.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$20,000*
- The Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley will expand Nurturing Parenting Program services to high-risk communities.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$145,274*
- Participating physician offices and social services agencies will refer prenatal patients to housing counselors based on housing need assessments. The counselors will work with local housing agencies to support and advocate for pregnant patients in order to meet their housing needs.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$216,400*
- Five Rivers Health Centers will work with the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services fatherhood initiative, the Public Health Fatherhood Initiative and Urban Light Ministries to create a fatherhood program and provide fatherhood education for dads-to-be in high-risk communities.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$18,196*

Through the West Dayton Health Promotion Partnership, Ohio Medicaid awarded funding to support the following proposals:

- A support group will be created for the boyfriends and husbands of pregnant women, specifically younger men, in high-risk communities. The support group will meet bi-monthly and, additionally, a manhood boot camp will be available quarterly.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$80,000*
- The faith-based community will train ministry leadership to identify at-risk women and men and promote the programs and services of the West Dayton Health Promotion Partnership in order to reduce stressors and promote mental health and overall wellbeing.  
*Total Funding Amount: \$39,000*

Total Medicaid investment across the nine projects is \$1,715,138.

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](#).