



Department of Medicaid

John R. Kasich, Governor
Barbara R. Sears, Director

November 13, 2017

Announcement of State Funding to Target Disparity in African American Infant Mortality Rate

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in partnership with its five managed care plans, is targeting the disparity in the African American infant mortality rate within the state's nine Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) communities. To assist in this effort, grants will be available from the managed care plans to fund initiatives that address this issue. The funding for these grants will run from January 2018 through June 2019. To qualify for funding, programs must have a link to one of the three following evidence-based models of intervention: CenteringPregnancy, Home Visiting or Community Health Workers. Projects submitted for consideration must focus on eliminating or mitigating the racial disparity in the infant mortality rate within these communities, and incorporate clearly defined objectives and metrics.

Local OEI communities may choose to submit one coordinated grant proposal for their community. If a community chooses to apply in this manner, the coordinating entity is required to provide all information for each of the local programs included in the proposal. Local programs may also submit proposals separate from any coordinated effort. Programs with their primary owner being a health care network or hospital will not be considered for funding.

Recognizing that each community is different, ODM and the managed care plans want to provide flexibility to local communities, enabling them to craft proposals that address their unique community while still being able to measure the produced outcomes. Communities are encouraged to think "outside of the box" in crafting their proposals. The process has been intentionally designed to allow applicants the opportunity to detail how their proposal links to one of the three evidence-based models while addressing the community's challenges. Please note, this funding cannot be used for any programming related to housing efforts.

To better measure results, each evidence-based model will have clearly defined, predetermined metrics. Grant recipients will be required to gather and report all metrics associated with the evidence-based model they are focused on. An example of the expected metrics that will be reported to the Ohio Department of Health and the local Ohio Equity Institute is available as a separate document. Additional metrics, including individual level data, specific to each evidence-based model will be outlined in the memorandum of understanding and reported to the managed care plans and the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Please note: there is no formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process for ODM's Infant Mortality grant application. Applying entities may submit their information in whatever format they believe best conveys the objectives and goals of their program. The proposals must include the following information:

- Name of the entity requesting funding
- Contact person and contact information
- Description of applicant agency or organization
- Concept of the funded program
- Requested funding level
- Budget narrative, including justification for project costs, staffing, etc.
- Objectives of the funded program
- Manner in which the program links to one of the required evidence-based models of intervention
- Project implementation
- What internal and external metrics the program uses when evaluating itself
- Responsible party for reporting metrics

If a lead coordinating organization requesting funding on behalf of a collective group of community organizations submits the proposal, a detailed listing of each entities' concepts, objectives, metrics and manner in which their respective projects connect to the required evidence-based models must be included.

Past funding under this program does not guarantee continued support. This biennium's grants were provided by the 132nd General Assembly and expire on June 30, 2019. All projects and actual work must be completed by June 30, 2019. Available resources after that date will be dependent on the actions of the 133rd General Assembly.

Proposals for grants must be submitted to Sherri Warner with the Ohio Department of Medicaid at sherri.warner@medicaid.ohio.gov by **December 8, 2017**. Applicants will be notified regarding the status of their application by December 31, 2017. Successful applicants will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the awarding Medicaid managed care plans.

Questions on the grant requirements or application process may be sent to Traci Bell-Thomas with the Ohio Department of Medicaid at traci.bell-thomas@medicaid.ohio.gov.