American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget Proposal

Request: Invest $9 million from the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund to extend and expand the Healthy Beginnings at Home (HBAH) research pilot which has shown promising results in improving birth outcomes and reducing Medicaid spending through an integrated health and housing intervention and that addresses racial disparities. Housing insecurity and homelessness are key factors correlated with adverse birth outcomes associated with the high rate of infant mortality, particularly among low-income Black and brown families.

Background:
In July 2017, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) requested proposals for a pilot program that aimed to reduce infant mortality through housing assistance and supportive services. OHFA allocated $1 million to fund a pilot program to test the impact of providing housing opportunities for extremely low-income households with pregnant women who are at high risk of adverse birth outcomes. On December 20, 2017, the OHFA Board awarded $990,970 to CelebrateOne in Columbus to implement Healthy Beginnings at Home, which has offered a comprehensive approach by providing pregnant women with housing and rental assistance, medical care, and important social services both before and after their baby is born. Led by CelebrateOne (an infant mortality prevention collaborative), in collaboration with CareSource (a managed care organization), Home For Families (a housing stabilization provider) and the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, Healthy Beginnings at Home has demonstrated promising findings - women who received housing assistance had better birth outcomes than those that did not receive this assistance.

Governor DeWine recently awarded $2.25 Million to the Healthy Beginnings at Home Collaborative¹ which will serve 90 households in Franklin and Summit counties.

Proposal: Enable Healthy Beginnings at Home to be tested at scale (300 households) in Ohio communities with very high rates of racial disparities in adverse birth outcomes and infant mortality. ARPA funds would enable an additional 210 households to receive 24 months of housing assistance and stabilization services as part of the program. Funds could be competitively awarded to HBAH community collaboratives that include

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¹ Governor DeWine prioritized funding for this initiative in the state’s 2022-2023 operating budget, which was passed by the Ohio General Assembly last year. The program is funded through the Ohio Department of Development and managed in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health and the Governor’s Office of Children’s Initiatives.

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Medicaid managed care organizations, maternal and infant health providers, housing stabilization services providers, and housing organizations.

Four communities (Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton) are actively planning for HBAH replication. This is a one-time funding investment that will provide statewide impact.

**Healthy Beginnings at Home Replication Sponsors:**
- CelebrateOne
- Cradle Cincinnati
- Full Term First Birthday Greater Akron/Summit County Public Health
- Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County
- Other sponsors
  - CareSource
  - Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
  - Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
  - Community Shelter Board
  - Homes for Families
  - United Way of Summit County
  - Nationwide Children’s Hospital
  - Barbara Poppe and Associates
  - Health Policy Institute of Ohio