

**Executive Summary  
Merrick House**

**Background/Purpose:**

Authorizing the Director of Public Health to enter into one or more contracts with Merrick House to provide MomsFirst services to women at risk of poor birth outcomes on the west side of Cleveland.

MomsFirst is a program designed to reduce disparities in infant mortality in the City of Cleveland utilizing three approaches: 1) improve women's health, 2) improve family health and wellness, and promote systems change. All high risk City of Cleveland pregnant women are eligible for enrollment into the program.

**Goals:**

- Reduce infant deaths, low birth weight and very low birth weight births among program participants.
- Improve access to quality health care and services.
- Build healthy communities.
- Improve health equity.

**Accomplishments:**

- MomsFirst has been successful in decreasing infant mortality by taking a leadership role in creating an integrated support system for pregnant and parenting women and their families.
- MomsFirst Community Health Workers served 1,102 participants and their families and made 7,403 home visits in 2019.
- MomsFirst's infant mortality rate was 5.0 in 2019 as compared to the city of Cleveland rate of 12.9.

**Contract Amount:** \$242,864

**Funding Source:** 2021 General Fund

EXPANDED PRENATAL SERVICES BUDGET

January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021

Merrick House

\$242,864.00

Merrick House will provide MomsFirst services to the entire west side of Cleveland, maintaining a minimum caseload capacity of 74 pregnant and parenting women. These families are followed until the child reaches 18 months. Two Community Health Workers, under the supervision of a Case Manager, conduct outreach and home visiting to enrolled families providing health education, screening and referral.

TOTAL:

\$242,864.00