

Council Summary

Background/Purpose:

This legislation authorizes the Director of Public Health to enter into contract with Case Western Reserve University Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) for professional services necessary to continue the **First Year Cleveland Program**; and authorizing any agreements needed to implement, for a period of two years.

In 2016, Cleveland City Council championed the City of Cleveland to partner with the Cuyahoga County Office of Health and Human Services to create First Year Cleveland to identify and address the high Black infant mortality rate in the City of Cleveland.

First Year Cleveland continues to effectively coordinate community services, lead interconnected solutions, and be uniquely sensitive to the needs of expectant mothers, fathers, caregivers, and families. As a strong "backbone" organization, First Year Cleveland is the premier knowledge resource regarding interventions that yield results and will continue to define systems level advocacy and policy change and service delivery strategies to improve care and build capacity to establish interventions to address social determinants of health needs to reduce infant and maternal mortality in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

Case Western Reserve University Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences will serve as fiscal agent for the program, provide in-kind support and services, provide expertise and assistance and work with First Year Cleveland's Steering Committee to support program operations.

Infant and maternal mortality remains high in the City of Cleveland. Access and delays to care, social drivers of health needs and safe sleep concerns impact health outcomes of both the mother and infant health including prematurity and low birth weight, which are primary causes of the high rate of infant mortality in the region.

Amount: \$500,000

Funding Source: Division of Health (5005) FY 26 General Fund

Term: October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2027