

Executive Summary MomsFirst

Department of Public Health

Background/Purpose: This legislation authorizes the Director of Public Health to apply for and accept a grant from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration for the Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health, authority to enter into one or more contracts with various agencies or entities to implement the MomsFirst Project.

Impact of the Legislation: MomsFirst is a program designed to reduce disparities in infant mortality in the City of Cleveland utilizing five approaches: 1) improve women's health, 2) promote quality services, 3) strengthen family resilience, 4) achieve collective impact, and 5) increase accountability through quality improvement, performance monitoring, and evaluation. All City of Cleveland pregnant women at risk for poor birth outcomes 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.
- Strengthen the health workforce.
- Build healthy communities.
- Improve health equity.
- Serve in a leadership and mentoring role for achieving collective impact.

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 served just over 1,600 participants in 2017 and boasts an Infant Mortality Rate for Project participants below 6.0 (Healthy People 2020 goal) in 7 of the last 10 years.
- Cleveland's 2017 overall Infant Mortality rate was 13.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, with a white rate of 6.8 and a black rate of 18.7. MomsFirst's IMR for Project participants in 2017 was 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live births, less than the city's white rate and one-third the black rate. Given that MomsFirst participants are reflective of those women at highest risk for poor birth outcomes, these data support the impact the program is having in reducing infant mortality in our community.
- All MomsFirst staff are now trained to become certified Community Health Workers through the Ohio Board of Nursing. The course consists of 100 hours of classroom training and a 130 hour externship.

Estimated Budget:

April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2024

\$2 million each year

Funding Source:

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Health Resources & Services Administration
