



HelpMeGrow.org

**Help Me Grow
Central Intake & Referral**

www.helpmegrow.org
Fax: (855) 318-3322
Or (855) 418-3322
Phone: 1-800-755-GROW
*Calls to the toll-free number
will be transferred to the
appropriate region:*

Central Region:
(614) 656-3322

Eastern Region:
(330) 616-3322

Northeastern Region:
(216) 930-3322 or
(440) 389-3322

Northwestern Region:
(419) 665-3322

Southeastern Region:
(740) 371-3322

Southern Region:
(740) 371-3322

Southwestern Region:
(513) 434-3322

Western Region:
(937) 612-3322

July 30, 2025

Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)
Qualified Allocation Plan
2600 Corporate Exchange Dr.
Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43231

Dear OHFA,

As the state-contracted provider of Help Me Grow Central Intake & Referral (CIR) services and a leader in early childhood services in Cuyahoga County, Bright Beginnings urges the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to prioritize housing for these vulnerable families to include a set-aside to help those who are pregnant and newly parenting.

Every day, Help Me Grow intake specialists around Ohio connect with families who could benefit from the supportive services Help Me Grow provides. These include:

- Home Visiting for pregnant individuals and families with young children
- Early Intervention for children 0-3 with developmental delays or disabilities
- Development Screenings for children through age 5
- Community Resources for pregnant individuals and families with young children

The conversations our intake team members have with families provide a glimpse into the challenges these families face. One of these is housing. Some families are reluctant to accept a service like home visiting because they do not have a stable home situation to which they would welcome a provider.

Help Me Grow Home Visiting can change the trajectory of a family's life. As one young mom shared in a video you can find at our website (helpmegrow.org/success), "...without Help Me Grow I would have backtracked. I would have went back down to the shelter due to finances, due to lack of support, motivation and encouragement to keep going and what I'm doing is not failing, but slowly succeeding."

Stable housing can also change the trajectory of a family's life.

Again, Bright Beginnings urges the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to prioritize housing for these vulnerable families. This support could have far-reaching impacts for Ohio families and for the futures of many children.

Thank you,

Melissa Bixel

Manager, Help Me Grow Central Intake & Referral

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