

July 23, 2025

Ohio Housing Finance Agency  
2600 Corporate Exchange Drive  
Columbus, OH 43231

**Subject: Recognizing the Impact of Stable Housing on Maternal and Infant Health in the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan**

Dear Ohio Housing Finance Agency Board,

Columbus Public Health is writing in support of measures in the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan that recognize the critical role stable housing plays in improving maternal and infant health outcomes in Ohio. We join CelebrateOne and other community partners in specifically asking you to set aside resources for pregnant people and new parents because safe and stable housing saves lives.

In fact, research shows a strong connection between housing stability and positive health outcomes for mothers and infants, including:

- Mothers are 40% less likely to have a preterm birth;
- Mother and babies experience a 35% decrease in low birth weight deliveries; and,
- Babies have 45% fewer emergency room visits in their first year.

To that end, I encourage the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to implement a set-aside or other mechanisms in the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan that prioritize housing projects serving pregnant individuals and families with newborns. This approach directly addresses a root cause of infant mortality which remains unacceptably high in our community.

Overall, prioritizing safe and stable housing for pregnant women and families will serve our most vulnerable residents and contribute to healthier, more equitable outcomes for Ohio families. Incorporating this focus into the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan will be a significant step toward achieving a healthier future for all Ohioans and I encourage your highest consideration of this request.

Best of Health,



Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
Health Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSIONER** | Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH  
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