
Support for Prioritizing Housing for Pregnant and Newly Parenting Families in the 2026 QAP

From Walters, Olivia G. <OGWalters@columbus.gov>

Date Tue 7/8/2025 7:42 AM

To QAP, OHFA <QAP@ohiohome.org>

You don't often get email from ogwalters@columbus.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This is an external email and may not be safe. If the email looks suspicious, please do not click links or open attachments and forward the email to or click the Phish Alert Button if available.

From: Columbus Public Health

Website: <https://www.columbus.gov/Services/Public-Health>

Dear OHFA QAP Team,

On behalf of **Columbus Public Health**, I am writing to express our strong support for a designated set-aside in the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to prioritize housing for pregnant and newly parenting families.

As a local health department committed to improving maternal and infant health outcomes in our community, we see every day how access to safe, stable, and affordable housing plays a critical role in shaping the health and well-being of families. Housing instability is linked to higher rates of poor birth outcomes, including low birth weight and infant mortality. When families are forced to choose between shelter and basic necessities, their ability to access consistent prenatal care, prepare for delivery, and provide a safe sleep environment for their newborns is severely compromised.

By setting aside funding in the QAP to support housing targeted for pregnant and parenting families, OHFA would be making a profound investment in upstream public health—helping reduce health disparities, supporting birth equity, and improving long-term outcomes for both parents and children.

This proposed set-aside aligns directly with our mission at Columbus Public Health to protect health and improve lives. We work closely with vulnerable families through initiatives like Safe Sleep, CelebrateOne, and other maternal and child health programs. When our clients have access to housing that is safe, affordable, and stable, we see measurable improvements in health behaviors, care utilization, and infant survival.

We urge OHFA to incorporate this vital housing priority into the 2026 QAP and help us advance a future where every pregnant person and infant in Ohio has a healthy start.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Olivia Walters

Columbus Public Health

ogwalters@columbus.gov

Olivia Walters, CPST (she/her)

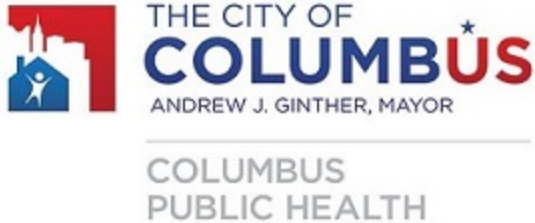
Outreach Worker

Infant Safe Sleep Program

ogwalters@columbus.gov | (614) 645-6138

-

Safe Sleep Pack N Play Requests: (614)-645-3111



240 Parsons Ave, Columbus, OH 43215

www.columbus.gov/publichealth

[Facebook](#) / [X](#) / [Instagram](#) / [TikTok](#) / [YouTube](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

NACCHO Champion of Local Governmental Public Health

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.