



July 8, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today in reference to the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan with a request to consider a set-aside to prioritize housing for pregnant and parenting families. My name is Angela Newman-White, Executive Director of First Year Cleveland, a public private backbone organization in the Greater Cleveland area with a goal to ensure that every baby celebrates their first birthday.

Housing has been and continues to be a significant concern for families in Cuyahoga County. Whether we are talking about quality, safety, or affordability, families are struggling to secure and maintain safe, stable housing. With costs rising and wages remaining stagnant, it is difficult for families to survive and thrive. The current minimum wage in Ohio is now \$10.10/hour, which at full time is \$21,008 a year. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a single individual would need to make \$17.05/hour while working 40 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment. In many households in the City of Cleveland, rent accounts for more than 45% of the household income, limiting resources for day-to-day living. A single mother would need to work 68 hours a week under current minimum wage to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Housing stability reduces the rates of preterm birth and infant death, increases engagement with healthcare systems, and improves overall health and well-being for families. Ohio currently implements the federal priority guidelines for housing subsidies that include veterans, persons with disabilities, and persons over 65, which limits access to timely housing for pregnant women and families with young children. By ensuring safe and affordable housing for expectant and parenting families, we ensure opportunities for healthy thriving communities.

Please consider a set-aside to prioritize pregnant women in the 2026 QAP. If you have questions, please contact me at axn656@case.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela', with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angela Newman-White

Executive Director, First Year Cleveland