



Championing public policy so that every young
child is healthy and ready to learn by age 5.

July 29, 2025

Ohio Housing Finance Agency
2600 Corporate Exchange Dr. Ste 300
Cincinnati, OH 43231

Re: Housing Support Pregnant and Newly Parenting Families

Dear OHFA QAP Review Committee:

Groundwork Ohio is the state's leading early childhood advocacy organization, focused on healthy development strategies for young children from the prenatal period to age five and their families. We write to express our strong support for the inclusion of a dedicated set-aside in the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) that prioritizes housing for pregnant people and newly parenting families.

At Groundwork Ohio, we work to ensure that every child in our state has the best possible start in life by advancing policy solutions rooted in equity. A stable, affordable home is one of the most powerful tools we have to prevent poor birth outcomes, reduce infant mortality, and improve long-term child development. The evidence is undeniable:

- Stable housing reduces preterm births by 40%,
- Mothers in stable housing are 2.5x more likely to receive adequate prenatal care,
- Infants in stable homes experience 45% fewer emergency room visits in their first year, and
- Families gain the chance to break intergenerational cycles of stress, instability, and poor health outcomes.

Housing is foundational to health and well-being, particularly during pregnancy and the earliest years of a child's life. Without a safe place to live, families struggle to attend prenatal appointments, maintain consistent care, or create a nurturing environment for infant growth. For the families already facing barriers due to poverty, systemic racism, or geographic isolation, housing instability compounds the inequities they face.

Creating a set-aside within the 2026 QAP to prioritize this population would demonstrate OHFA's commitment to investing in the full potential of Ohio's children, beginning before birth. This approach would align with statewide goals to reduce maternal and infant mortality and build stronger, healthier families.

GroundworkOhio.org

175 S. 3rd Street, Suite 420 • Columbus OH 43215

We urge OHFA to lead boldly by embedding this life-changing investment into the 2026 QAP and recognize housing as a powerful tool for prevention and equity.

Warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynanne Gutierrez". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Lynanne Gutierrez
President & CEO
Groundwork Ohio



@GroundworkOhio