



July 31, 2025

To: Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA); QAP@OhioHome.org

RE: Support for Housing Set-Aside for Pregnant and Newly Parenting Families in the 2026 QAP

Dear Ohio Housing Finance Agency Team,

On behalf of Physicians CareConnection (PCC), I am writing in support of the inclusion of a dedicated set-aside in the 2026 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for housing developments that serve pregnant and newly parenting families.

As a trusted nonprofit healthcare coordination organization serving over 2,900 unique clients annually in Franklin County, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured women; PCC sees firsthand the devastating impact that housing instability has on maternal and infant health. Conversely, we have also witnessed the transformative power of stable housing in improving health outcomes across generations.

We urge OHFA to formally recognize the role of housing in improving maternal and infant health outcomes. Access to safe, stable housing has been shown to:

- Increase the likelihood that a baby will survive to their first birthday, especially among populations most affected by health disparities.
- Enable consistent prenatal and postpartum care, including immunizations and early screenings for infants.
- Provide a secure and hygienic sleep environment for infants, reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death (SUID).
- Reduce maternal stress, depression, and anxiety—factors strongly associated with preterm birth and low birth weight.
- Support family stability, allowing parents to focus on caregiving, bonding, and early childhood development.

Franklin County continues to face stark disparities in infant mortality, with Black infants dying at nearly three times the rate of White infants. These disparities are compounded by poverty, housing insecurity, and barriers to healthcare. In our work, PCC provides health improvement coordination, behavioral health navigation, prenatal support, and access to medications for hundreds of pregnant women each year. However, without safe and affordable housing, our efforts, and those of our partners, can only go so far.

We believe that housing is healthcare. A QAP set-aside that supports pregnant and newly parenting families will not only strengthen Ohio's maternal-child health outcomes but will also save lives. We urge OHFA to prioritize this vulnerable population in the 2026 QAP and invest in housing solutions that give every baby the chance to thrive.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to building a healthier, more equitable Ohio.

Sincerely,

Isimeme "Isi" Ikharebha Green, MPH
President
Physicians CareConnection