



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Canton City Public Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Canton City Public Health

Contact: Dawn Miller, THRIVE Project Manager
Telephone: 234-410-3087
420 Market Avenue North, Canton, OH 44702
Date: November 25, 2019

For Immediate Release

Ohio Medicaid Awards \$1.63 Million for THRIVE Project

Canton, Ohio - Canton City Public Health has received \$1.63 million in funding for Stark County THRIVE's efforts to improve maternal health and birth outcomes and reduce Stark County's racial inequities in infant mortality. The funding was awarded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid, along with the state's five Medicaid managed care providers.

Preliminary data for 2018 shows:

- Stark County's **overall Infant Mortality Rate** has decreased to 6.4. This means that **for every 1,000 babies born alive in Stark County, approximately 6 babies die before their first birthday.**
- Stark County's **black Infant Mortality Rate** has decreased to 5.7. This means that **for every 1,000 babies born alive in Stark County, less than 6 babies die before their first birthday.**
- Stark County's **disparity rate** was 0.9. This means that **black and white babies experienced near equity in the rates of vitality after birth.**

In conjunction with the Stark County community, THRIVE has developed a rich and complex suite of interventions that have reduced the overall infant mortality rate while also significantly reducing the racial disparity in birth outcomes.

“As a nurse, I know investments in clinical care and community-based services are critical to reduce infant mortality and its racial disparity,” said Maureen Corcoran, Ohio’s Medicaid Director. “The Ohio Department of Medicaid and its managed care plan partners are committed to funding collaborative local efforts in areas most in need; ensuring that African American babies have the same chance to thrive in their first year of life as all other infants.”

The funding will support evidence-based and research-based interventions implemented by THRIVE’s partners. These interventions include:

- Expansion of the Stark County THRIVE Pathways HUB and the provision of services provided by Certified Community Health Workers.
- Ongoing support for Centering Pregnancy programs at My Community Health Center and Alliance Family Health Center.
- African-American woman-led Sister Circles.
- Peer maternal care support for victims of domestic/intimate partner violence.
- Fatherhood programs and coaching.
- Racial equity and cultural competency services.
- The HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy and Law) program.

According to THRIVE Project Manager Dawn Miller, “We are very proud of our community’s work to reduce infant mortality and disparity rates. This funding will allow us to build on our success to deliver evidence-based services that are making a positive difference. We will also be implementing several new strategies to fill service gaps.”

Questions may be directed to Dawn Miller, Canton City Public Health at (330) 575-4098 or dmiller@cantonhealth.org.

THRIVE is a collaborative between Stark County residents, organizations, agencies, and businesses focused on preventing and reducing the rates of infant deaths and disparities in birth outcomes. More information is available at cantonhealth.org/thrive/

###