



# MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT · PROMOTE · PROTECT

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<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> <b>DATE: December 17, 2019</b>	<b>Contact: Patricia M Sweeney, JD, MPH, RN</b>
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## **Mahoning County Infant Mortality Prevention Coalition receives \$1.88 million to reduce African American infant mortality in 2020 and 2021**

In 2017, African American babies born in Mahoning County were three times more likely than white babies in the County to die before their first birthday.

To help change this, the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Plans announced that they are providing funding to the MY Baby’s 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition to help more Mahoning County babies reach their first birthday and beyond.

“Ohio Medicaid covers approximately 52 percent of the births in our state, and our department is deeply committed to investing in local services that will help reduce the infant mortality rate for African American babies in Ohio,” said Maureen Corcoran, state Medicaid Director. “We are holding ourselves, Medicaid’s managed care plan partners, and our new community grantees accountable to make positive changes for Ohio’s babies.”

The funding will be used to coordinate and publicize all levels of services available to pregnant women in Mahoning County- Mercy Health CenteringPregnancy® Program, Nurse Family Partnership, the Mahoning Valley Pathways HUB, and Help Me Grow along with a number of Community Health Worker programs provided by Mercy Health Resource Mothers, Youngstown City Health District, Mahoning County Public Health, Alta Healthcare and Akron Children’s Hospital. Additionally legal services for at-risk pregnant women will be provided through a partnership with Northeast Ohio Community Legal Aid.

Women can access these services by calling MY Baby’s 1<sup>st</sup> at: 330-270-2855 ext. 142

### ABOUT MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Mahoning County Public Health works to protect the public’s health and to ensure conditions in which all people can live healthy lives. Mahoning County Public Health offers a variety of services from immunizations to environmental and community health programs. For a complete list of services visit [mahoninghealth.org](http://mahoninghealth.org).

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