

SUMMARY STATEMENT: CELEBRATEONE

The goal of the CelebrateOne Community Connector Corps is to connect disconnected women to reliable medical and social services that will lower the infant mortality rate in eight priority Columbus neighborhoods where infant mortality is highest.

To address the needs of the community and connect pregnant and parenting women/families to supportive services, the program identifies and trains local residents as community health workers (CHWs). The CHWs work within these targeted neighborhoods with the goal of reducing prematurity and infant mortality. To accomplish this, neighborhood-based CHWs:

- **Identify and engage** women and families to schedule prenatal/primary care appointments through community outreach and canvassing.
- **Refer** women to supportive services that address social determinants of health and the preparation for the arrival of a new baby (cribs, diapers, and home visiting) so that women can focus on their health and their family's well-being.
- **Follow up with families** to make sure they are connected to services and that barriers or access issues experienced by the families are documented and addressed.
- **Inform** community partners about gaps in services for residents.

Since the first full year of program implementation in 2016, the infant mortality rate within the eight priority neighborhoods decreased from 11.8 deaths out of 1,000 live births to 10.4 deaths out of 1,000 live births in 2018.

CRADLE CINCINNATI

Because it is the leading cause of infant death, reducing extreme preterm birth is a major focus of Cradle Cincinnati in Hamilton County. Over the past five years, the county has seen a 12% decline in extreme preterm births. Encouragingly, the bulk of that improvement has come from a 55% decline in just three neighborhoods where the collaborative has focused its energy and resources. Those communities were home to 81 extreme preterm births between 2009-2013 and just 36 from 2014-2018. This place-based approach, called Cradle Cincinnati Connections, is led in partnership with moms from each neighborhood. The work is focused specifically on improving African American preterm birth rate outcomes and has five central tenants:

1. Find and deliver measurable results for every woman in a geographic place.
2. Build trust and empathy through consistency of care and sustained, authentic connection developed by a CHW and nurse case manager team.
3. Solve the problems of each mom by "saying yes" and providing tangible resources.
4. Develop unique, community-driven solutions and strategies.
5. Reinforce our stakeholders' sense of ownership with place-based motivation and data about impact.

In partnership with bi3, the state of Ohio and Health Resources and Services Administration, Cradle Cincinnati Connections is currently expanding to reach 12 zip codes.

FIRST YEAR CLEVELAND

First Year Cleveland has a goal of reducing Cuyahoga County's infant mortality rate (IMR) of 10.5 to 6.0 in 2020 from a high of 10.5 in 2015. They are mobilizing the community through action teams and a unified strategy centered on reducing racial disparities, addressing extreme prematurity, and eliminating sleep-related infant deaths. Early efforts are encouraging with an over 20% decrease in Cuyahoga County's IMR over the period of 2015-2017 proving that success is possible, although their work is not done. Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant deaths in Cuyahoga County and in African American births. First Year Cleveland is committed to implementing an equity lens throughout its work and addressing structural racism in order to achieve system changes and better health outcomes.