



Ohio Equity Institute 2.0

Addressing racial disparities in birth outcomes

Background



In 2017, Black infants in Ohio died at nearly three times the rate of White infants. The Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Health and local partners. Created in 2012 to address racial disparities in birth outcomes, population data is used to target areas for outreach and services in the nine counties with the largest disparities. OEI 2.0 launched on October 1, 2018. This targeted structure was developed to ensure that the program addresses the biggest drivers of infant mortality and the population most at risk for poor birth outcomes.

OEI 2.0 Program Structure

SFY19 Grant Year



Through a competitive grant solicitation, local entities were charged with implementing the following program components:

- **Upstream:** Facilitate the development, adoption, or improvement of policies and/or practices which impact the social determinants of health related to preterm birth and low birth weight in each county.
- **Downstream:** Local community health workers, known as Neighborhood Navigators, identify and connect a portion of each county's priority prenatal population to clinical and social services.

OEI Counties

Funded Entities by County

- **Butler:** Butler County Health Department
- **Cuyahoga:** Cuyahoga County Health Department
- **Franklin:** CelebrateOne
- **Hamilton:** Hamilton County Health Department
- **Lucas:** Lucas County Regional Health District
- **Mahoning:** Mahoning County District Board of Health
- **Montgomery:** Public Health- Dayton & Montgomery County
- **Stark:** Canton City Health Department
- **Summit:** Summit County General Health District



Neighborhood Navigator priority prenatal population for services:

- Pregnant
- Household income does not exceed 200% FPL
- Possess at least one of the following risk factors:
 - Previous preterm birth
 - Previous low-birth weight delivery
 - Under age 25
 - User of tobacco products in home
 - History or unstable housing or homelessness
 - Current diagnosed medical condition
 - History of child abuse or neglect
 - Have demonstrated a need for substance abuse treatment
 - History of depression or other diagnosed mental health concerns.