

# INFANT MORTALITY



## We Need Your Help.

**Infant mortality – or the death of a baby before his/her first birthday – is a critical indicator of community health. Ohio ranks at the bottom of state infant mortality rates and at the bottom of Black infant mortality rates. The Columbus and Franklin County area has a rate that is twice as high as New York City's. These statistics are unacceptable.**

### THE SOLUTION:

## Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes

**Columbus is partnering with 8 other Ohio communities and the Ohio Department of Health to focus on improving birth outcomes and reducing racial disparities in infant mortality.** The Ohio Equity Institute is an initiative designed by a national organization, CityMatCH. CityMatCH supports urban Maternal and Child Health efforts at the local level.

**The equity institute is a data-driven, evidence-based, and highly visible movement.** During a span of three years, these 9 communities in Ohio will receive training and support in implementing and evaluating equity-focused projects. In Columbus, this 3 year project is sponsored by Columbus Public Health, the lead agency for the local initiative.

**The 9 communities include:** Butler County, Canton-Stark County, Lucas County/Toledo, Cincinnati, Mahoning County/Youngstown, Columbus, Montgomery County/Dayton, Cuyahoga County/Cleveland, and Summit County.

### NEIGHBORHOODS AFFECTED

**Columbus Public Health will focus efforts in the Southside** of Columbus within zip codes 43206 and 43207. These two zip codes are among the highest infant mortality rates in the country.

### THE PLAN

**Team Training:** Experts in public health, epidemiology, birth outcomes, health inequities, evaluation, and community stakeholders will complete the Equity Institute Curriculum and consider, design, and implement an equity project. The Equity Institute Curriculum has 5 major topics, including:

- Epidemiology of birth outcomes and racial disparities
- Evidence-based interventions for vulnerable populations
- Racism and inequities in birth outcomes
- Leadership
- Evaluation

**Project Development:** Ohio Equity Institute teams will work together to assess local capacity, examine local data, design and implement a project, and demonstrate the evidence base for local interventions that reduce inequities in birth outcomes.

**Sharing Summit:** Through face-to-face equity institute trainings, monthly calls and webinars, online curriculum, mentoring relationships with experts, and topical technical assistance, Ohio Equity Institute teams will arrive at a final summit to share their processes and results.

### GET INVOLVED

**We are looking for committed individuals to help** by getting the message out or helping to create and/or implement the plan. Contact us at 614-645-5489 or [amheaggans@columbus.gov](mailto:amheaggans@columbus.gov) for more details.