



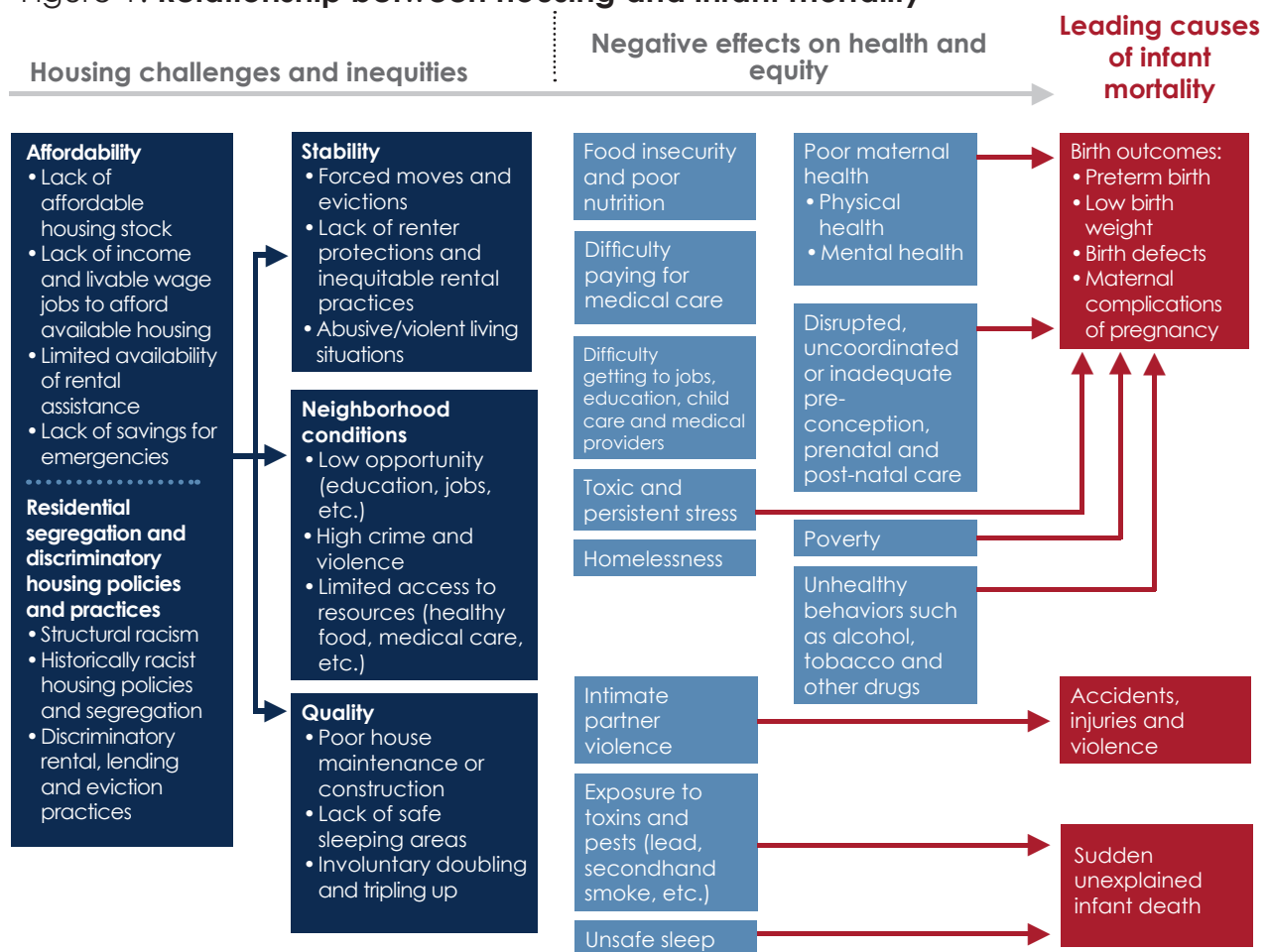
Social drivers of infant mortality HOUSING ACTION GUIDE

Why is action needed?

Safe, stable and affordable housing is vital for good health. There are several ways that housing affects overall health and well-being, including¹:

- Unsafe, overcrowded and/or poorly maintained housing can lead to maternal and infant health problems through exposure to hazards like lead and mold.
- High housing costs can contribute to financial instability, including increased risk of eviction and homelessness, and toxic stress.
- Residential segregation isolates some communities from needed resources, such as healthcare and employment opportunities, and can create conditions for increased chronic stress, trauma and community violence.

Figure 1. Relationship between housing and infant mortality



Source: HPIO "A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity: Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment" (2017)

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) recently produced the [Social Drivers of Infant Mortality: Recommendations for Action and Accountability in Ohio](#) report (“Action and Accountability” report) as an update to the 2017 report “[A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity](#).” This action guide takes a closer look at the housing recommendations in the Action and Accountability report and provides state and local health stakeholders with additional information and tools to support next steps. You can use this guide and additional tools posted on the [HPIO website](#) to prioritize, advocate for and implement the recommendations.

This action guide includes:

- **Key terms** for the housing sector
- **Housing recommendations** from the Action and Accountability report that can be implemented at either the state or local level, as well as implementation examples from other states and Ohio communities
- **Recent policy activity at the state and local levels**, including relevant decisions that have been implemented or are under consideration
- **A list of key partners**, as well as information about community engagement and cross-sector collaboration
- **Data for action**, including relevant sources of housing data
- **Relevant resources** for additional information

Key terms

- **Area Median Income (AMI)**. The median, or middle, income for a household in a region.
- **Continuum of care (CoC)**. Regional or local planning bodies responsible for organizing housing and services to meet the specific needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- **Disaggregated data**. Data that can be broken out by demographic characteristics, such as race and ethnicity, economic status and region.
- **Eviction expungement**. Removing the record of an eviction court case from public view.
- **Housing cost burden**. Spending more than 30% of household income on rent or mortgage and utilities. Severe housing cost burden refers to paying more than 50% of household income on these expenses.
- **Housing instability**. Several housing-related challenges, including severe cost burden, trouble paying rent, frequent moves, living in overcrowded conditions (sometimes with friends or relatives) and/or literal homelessness.
- **Landlord risk mitigation fund**. An added protection for landlords willing to rent to someone with limited income, a poor rental history or a criminal history. The funds can cover excessive damages to a rental unit, lost rent or legal fees beyond the security deposit.
- **Literal homelessness**. When an individual or family lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation, living in a shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements or exiting an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.²
- **Pay to Stay**. Codifies and standardizes an existing legal defense to eviction action by allowing tenants to cure nonpayment of rent by paying what is owed, including all reasonable fees and legal expenses, prior to eviction.³
- **Permanent supportive housing**. A housing model that combines low-barrier affordable housing, health care and supportive services so that individuals and families can live more stable lives.
- **Rapid re-housing**. Programs that provide supportive services to move families or individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability into permanent housing, usually within 30 days.
- **Source of income protection**. Laws that prohibit landlords from denying tenants based on the tenant’s source of income, such as Housing Choice Vouchers, supplemental security income, veteran’s benefits, child support, spousal support or other sources.



Housing goals and recommendations

HPIO's [Social Drivers of Infant Mortality Advisory Group](#) prioritized the following policy goals and recommendations to improve housing conditions for families most at risk of infant mortality. See the [Action and Accountability report](#) for more information about the process of selecting the goals and recommendations.

Many of the recommendations listed below are being implemented in other states and/or local communities across Ohio. These implementation examples are listed alongside the relevant recommendation.

Goal 1. Increase availability of rental assistance

Increase funding for programs that assist pregnant women and families, including those with extremely low incomes, with maintaining their current housing or obtaining new housing.

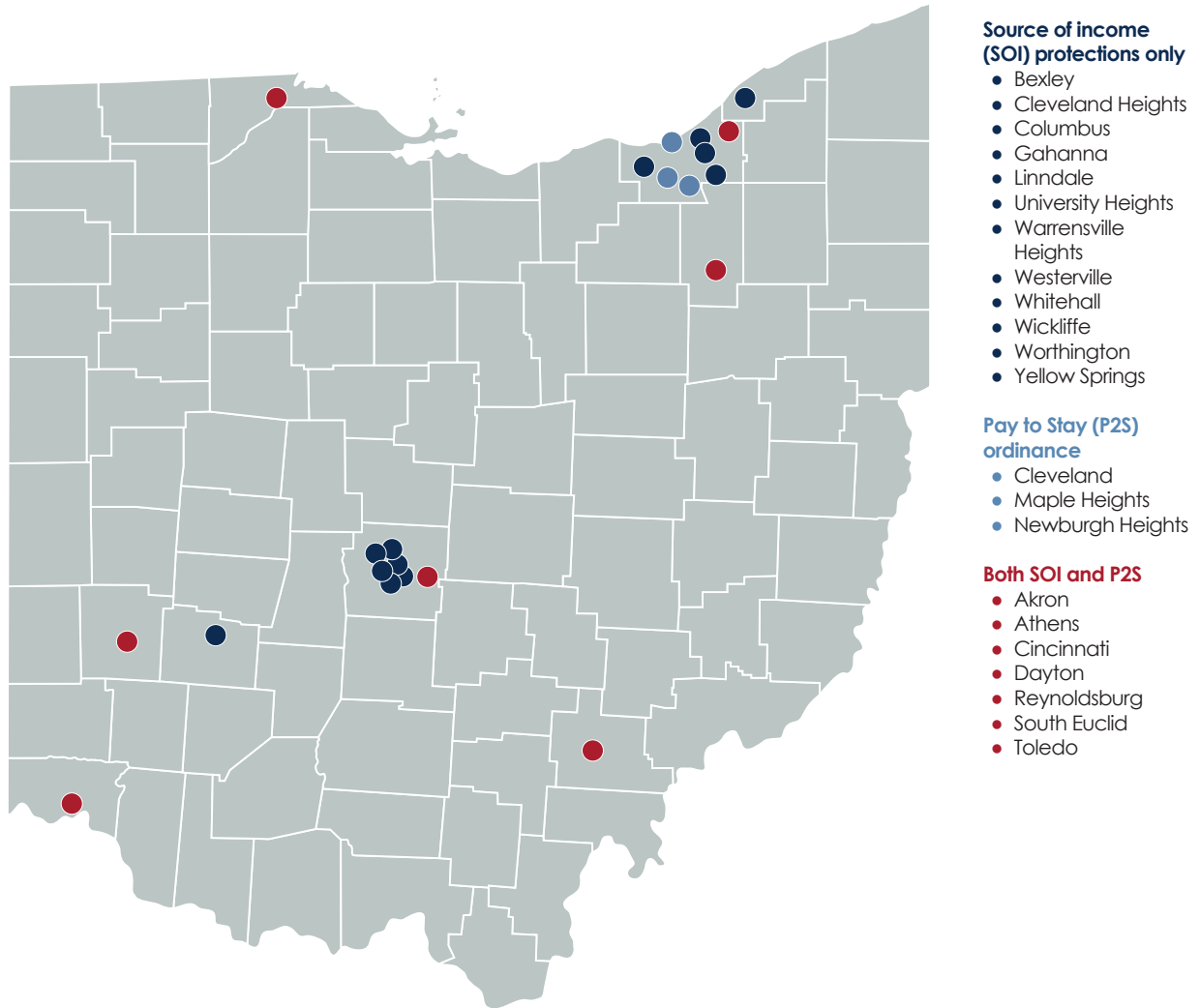
Recommendations	Implementation examples
<i>State recommendations</i>	
<p>1.1. Rapid re-housing and rental assistance funding. State policymakers can direct state agencies to increase funding from new and existing sources for rapid re-housing programs and other rental assistance programs for pregnant women and families with very young children. Unallocated American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds could be used for this purpose.</p>	<p>Ohio: Healthy Beginnings at Home is a research project testing the impact of providing rental assistance with housing stabilization services to unstably housed pregnant women at high risk of infant mortality. Initially piloted in Columbus with promising birth outcomes, Healthy Beginnings at Home has been expanded in Summit and Franklin counties.</p>
<p>1.2. Financial incentives for prioritizing pregnant women. State policymakers can instruct key state agencies to establish low-cost financial incentives that will help public housing authorities implement housing preferences for pregnant women and their families who are homeless or experiencing housing instability.</p>	<p>Boston, Massachusetts: The Boston Public Housing Authority partnered with Children's HealthWatch at Boston Medical Center for the Housing Prescriptions as Health Care project, which provides housing to families with young children.</p>
<p>1.3. Medicaid flexibility to cover housing supports. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) can leverage flexibility from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through an 1115 waiver, "in lieu of services and settings" or other mechanisms to cover housing supports for pregnant women with housing instability, including rental assistance. To identify eligible members and evaluate effectiveness of these supports, as well as other housing-related initiatives, ODM can ensure that the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Form (PRAF) include a standardized measure of housing instability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arizona: CMS approved the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System's (Arizona's Medicaid agency) waiver for housing supports (including pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services). The target population is enrollees who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and who meet at least one of a list of specified clinical and social risk criteria, including enrollment in Arizona's Long Term Care System, serious mental illness, high-cost high needs chronic health conditions or comorbidities or other specified clinical and social risk criteria. Arkansas: CMS approved a waiver for the Arkansas Department of Human Services to provide housing supports (including pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services) with a broad target population including individuals with high-risk pregnancies and up to two years postpartum.

Goal 2. Reduce structural barriers to affordable housing

Implement policies to protect renters from discrimination, particularly for families at highest risk of eviction and housing instability.

Recommendations	Implementation examples
<i>State recommendations</i>	
<p>2.1. Eviction expungement and other clean slate policies. The General Assembly can pass legislation to remove barriers to housing for renters with past evictions or criminal records. Specifically, they can pass legislation introduced in the 134th General Assembly (Senate Bill 158) which would allow for a court to expunge an eviction case upon the motion of a tenant, landlord or the court's own motion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota: Statute 484.014 allows a court to order expungement in certain cases, such as cases where the plaintiff's case sufficiently lacks basis in fact or law (including lack of jurisdiction), the expungement is in the interests of justice and those interests do not outweigh the public's interest in knowing about the record. • Nevada: Statute 40.2545 allows for the automatic sealing of the records of dismissed or denied evictions and evictions where the tenant can show they are not in default. Sealed eviction records in Nevada are considered to have never occurred.
<i>Local recommendations</i>	
<p>2.2. Renter protections. Local governments can implement policy changes that protect renters and reduce discrimination, such as increased funding for legal aid services and implementing "source of income" protections and Pay to Stay policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbus: Columbus "Housing for All" legislation includes protection for renters from source of income discrimination, as well as requirements for security deposit payment options and written receipts for payment of rent or security deposit. This story illustrates how the ordinance is being used to protect renters. • Other Ohio cities: Figure 2 identifies the 22 Ohio communities that have implemented Pay to Stay ordinances and/or source of income protections as of March 2023.⁴
<p>2.3. Mitigation fund. Local policymakers can continue to increase access to private rental market housing for tenants with extremely low incomes by establishing funds or other incentives that can be used to mitigate perceived risks associated with renting to tenants with extremely or very low incomes and rental assistance recipients (such as lease compliance and general maintenance).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohio: The COHHIO Risk Mitigation Fund aims to recruit and retain landlords to participate in rapid rehousing and scattered-site permanent supportive housing programs. • Columbus: Home4Good, an initiative developed by the Community Shelter Board in Columbus, has created a risk mitigation fund for landlords. This fund provides an additional safety net for landlords when housing second-chance renters.

Figure 2. Ohio communities with source of income protections and/or a Pay to Stay ordinance



Source: Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio and the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio (2022); Poverty & Race Research Action Council (2023)

Goal 3. Increase affordable housing supply

Increase funding for affordable housing developments for very low-income and extremely low-income renters and homeowners in high-opportunity and low-poverty rate areas.

Recommendations	Implementation examples
State recommendations	
<p>3.1. Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The Governor and the Ohio General Assembly can revoke provisions from House Bill 45 (134th General Assembly), including a provision that allows low-income housing tax credit properties to be taxed at an inflated market value instead of actual rental income, and another provision that would prohibit the use of State Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits on the same project.</p>	<p>South Carolina: In South Carolina, the Federal Tax Credit for Low Income Housing can be used with the 20% Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit to rehabilitate historic buildings to provide rental units for low to moderate income residents. The state also offers other incentives that may be combined with the state's historic rehabilitation credits.</p>
<p>3.2. State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The state legislature can implement a state-level low-income housing tax credit for the development of affordable single-family and multi-family homes.</p>	<p>Colorado: The state implemented a state-level Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program in 2014. The program is overseen by the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. Similar programs exist in 23 other states.</p>
Local recommendations	
<p>3.3. Inclusionary zoning. Local policymakers can implement inclusionary zoning policies that require or incentivize developers to reserve a certain percentage of new units to be affordable for families below 80% Area Median Income. Local policymakers can also require that housing developers work with local public housing authorities to ensure that new housing developments will be eligible to accept rental assistance.</p>	<p>The following communities, in addition to others, have implemented an inclusionary zoning policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monroe County, Florida: Monroe County has adopted a Local Housing Assistance Plan requiring developers to set aside 30% of units as affordable, with incentives like density bonuses and expedited permitting. • Durham, North Carolina: Durham has adopted a voluntary inclusionary housing program with density and height bonuses to encourage developers to incorporate 15% of the total units as affordable. • Cleveland: In 2021, the City of Cleveland's Department of Community Development developed a Housing Equity Plan, with a goal of implementing inclusionary zoning to provide affordable housing options in strong-market neighborhoods by 2025.
<p>3.4. Funding for affordable housing development. Local policymakers can provide funding for the construction and maintenance of affordable housing by leveraging federal dollars for affordable housing and homelessness programs, utilizing bond packages to fund affordable housing (such as Columbus' 2022 Issue 16) or providing low interest loans for upgrades and repairs that allow families to affordably update and maintain their homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbus: Columbus Issue 16, passed in 2022, allows the city to issue \$200 million in bonds and levy additional property taxes to construct affordable housing as part of Mayor Ginther's plan to increase housing stock. • Youngstown: The City of Youngstown 2022 Annual Action Plan describes goals to increase supply and improve quality of affordable housing and provide housing and services to people who are homeless and near homeless, utilizing federal funding.



Prioritizing recommendations for action

The goals and recommendations above address significant housing challenges across Ohio. To make progress on these goals, you can work with partners in your community, including those affected by and at risk of experiencing infant mortality, to identify which recommendations you will prioritize for action. When selecting recommendations on which to act, you can consider which goals will have the largest impact, are most important to advance equity and are feasible given the policy landscape and existing initiatives.

For more guidance on selecting recommendations on which to act, see the [Recommendations Worksheet](#).



Recent policy activity

Policymakers at the state and local level are engaged in addressing Ohio's housing challenges. This section provides you with information on recent state and local policy activity related to the recommendations above.

Policy decisions, including funding, for housing development and programs happen at the federal, state and local level, often with collaboration between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), local Metropolitan Housing Authorities and other partners. Typically, HUD allocates funds to state and local partners for managing programs, such as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

State policymakers allocate funding through the Ohio biennial budget to OHFA and ODOD to administer housing programs. Private sources, such as philanthropy, also fund state and local housing programs. The activities below include provisions from the 2023-2024 proposed state budget, various state initiatives and local decisions.

2024-2025 state operating budget: Executive proposal

If enacted as proposed:

- The Department of Development would receive \$65 million per year for low- and moderate-income housing programs, a 17.6 % increase from the last state budget. The Department would also receive \$12,575,000 per year for housing assistance programs.
- The Healthy Beginnings at Home rental assistance program would be expanded to more Ohio communities through a \$15 million allocation.⁵ Governor DeWine included this proposed expansion in his **Bold Beginning** plan announced in the fall of 2022.
- The proposal includes two housing tax credit provisions to be administered by OHFA. One would support development and rehabilitation of low-income multifamily rental housing, while the other would support the development of affordable single-family housing.

Enacted legislation from the 133rd and 134th General Assemblies (2019-2022)

- **House Bill 166 (133rd GA):** The 2020-2021 State Operating Budget authorized metropolitan housing authorities (MHAs) to redevelop “slum” areas⁶ in their districts and develop, own and operate mixed-use and mixed-income properties. The bill also authorized MHAs to share and provide housing-related expertise for the management and implementation of housing projects, organizations, grants and contracts.
- **House Bill 166 (133rd GA):** The 2020-2021 State Operating Budget increased the fee that is collected by county recorders for Housing Trust Funds and removed the \$50 million cap for the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Trust Fund.
- **House Bill 430 (134th GA):** Blocked local governments from implementing rent control and rent stabilization policies under the Landlord and Tenant Law (2021).
- **House Bill 45 (134th GA):** Increased taxes on low-income tax credit housing to an inflated market value and blocked developers from using both the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits on the same project (2022).
- **House Bill 110 (134th GA):** The 2022-2023 State Operating Budget included \$25 million for a rental assistance program for housing-unstable, low-income pregnant women.
- **House Bill 110 (134th GA):** The 2022-2023 State Operating Budget allocated \$2.25 million in state fiscal year (SFY) 2022 to support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.
- **House Bill 110 (134th GA):** The 2022-2023 State Operating Budget invested \$15 million in lead abatement, including \$2 million for the Lead Safe Home Fund Pilot Program, which supports effective, enforceable and equitable solutions in lead safety.

Local decisions

Local governments support housing quality and affordability in several ways, such as zoning and city planning, enforcement of building codes and fair housing policies, and leveraging funds for housing programs and development (e.g., bonds and state and federal funding). For example, local governments may implement an inclusionary zoning ordinance for certain neighborhoods or the entire city. Local governments may also require landlords and developers to renovate their housing units to meet specific quality standards before they can be provided to participants of a rental assistance program.

For additional examples of relevant local decisions being made in Ohio and across the country, refer to the goals and recommendations section on pages 3-6.



Advocating for change at the state and local level

Advocacy plays an important role in creating policy change to improve community outcomes. There are many forms of advocacy, including educating and building relationships with policymakers, creating and convening a coalition, and lobbying for change to legislation. Anyone can advocate for state and local policy changes that improve housing, reduce infant mortality and achieve equity, including the recommendations in this guide.

For more information and guidance on advocacy, see the [Advocacy Worksheet](#).



Collaboration with key partners

There are many complex systems and factors that contribute to improved housing and infant health. Intentional, creative collaboration with a variety of partners across public and private sectors can make it possible to amplify your efforts and make progress on the prioritized recommendations. Collaboration also allows partners to specialize. Your organization alone does not need to take on every recommendation but can instead partner with others to strategically allocate resources and coordinate efforts.

Leaders and experts from the following entities are vital to the housing landscape and well positioned to improve housing affordability and availability:

Federal

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This federal agency administers several housing programs and community development grants for state and local partners. HUD maintains a [website](#) for locating other housing resources, including HUD offices, housing services and affordable housing units.

State

- **Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA).** A state agency which coordinates and distributes federal and state government funding for housing programs, including housing rehabilitation loans and grants, community development block grants and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.
- **Ohio Department of Development (ODOD).** This state agency administers funding for housing and homelessness programs, including utility assistance programs such as the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), as well as other community development funding.
- **Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO).** A coalition of organizations and individuals with a commitment to end homelessness and promote decent, safe, fair, affordable housing, with a focus on low-income and special needs populations. COHHIO supports several housing assistance programs, engages in advocacy on housing issues and manages the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which oversees every county in Ohio that does not have its own Continuum of Care.⁷

Local, regional and private sector

- **Metropolitan Housing Authorities (MHAs).** Also known as Public Housing Authorities, MHAs are entities which locally administer HUD funding, including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, and maintain some local affordable housing developments. They also ensure compliance with federal regulations, such as the Fair Housing Act.
- **City and county governments.** These entities are responsible for creating and enforcing local-level housing policy within state and federal regulations, such as source of income protections and inclusionary zoning.
- **Continuums of Care (COCs) and non-profit organizations that provide services to people who are homeless or unstably housed.** COCs are regional or local planning bodies responsible for preparing and submitting a consolidated application for federal [McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grants](#) to HUD. According to HUD, COCs are responsible for organizing housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless. COCs do not typically provide direct services, but coordinate services such as emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.
- **Local infant mortality collaboratives/coalitions.** These entities focus on bringing together local partners to reduce infant mortality, improve infant health in their local community and achieve equity in infant health outcomes. They often receive Ohio Department of Health [Ohio Equity Initiative \(OEI\)](#) funding.

- **Financial institutions.** Financial institutions lend money for construction and are often private entities, such as banks. **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)** and **philanthropic organizations** also provide funding for the development and maintenance of affordable housing and housing assistance programs. CDFIs lend money to individuals, organizations and businesses in under-resourced communities. Philanthropic organizations are often non-profit organizations that use donations and other assets to support various causes.
- **Real estate developers.** Housing developers construct new housing and/or renovate existing housing.
- **Regional Planning Commissions.** Regional planning commissions serve multiple roles in communities to target limited resources and deliver the best return on investment.
- **Landlords.** Individuals or entities that own and operate rental housing units, including units eligible for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and other rental assistance. Landlords may own a single unit or multiple units and can be public (e.g., MHAs) or private for-profit or non-profit entities.
- **Community action agencies.** Local organizations that receive federal, state and local funding to implement programs designed to alleviate poverty, including addressing housing instability.
- **Local housing advocacy organizations (varies by community).** Local housing advocacy organizations, such as the **Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio**, engage decisionmakers at the local and state level to create change in housing policy.
- **Local tenants' rights grassroots organizations (varies by community).** Tenants' rights groups advocate for housing policy that ensures tenants are treated fairly by landlords.
- **Legal aid.** These independent, non-profit law firms provide essential legal services to enable Ohioans to live safer, healthier and more financially stable lives. Legal aid organizations help with many issues, including landlord mediation and eviction prevention.
- **Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Boards (ADAMH Boards).** ADAMH Boards plan, evaluate and fund mental health and addiction services in their areas. Some serve one county, while others serve multiple counties. The boards contract with a wide range of providers for prevention, treatment and recovery support for their community members, including recovery housing and other housing supports for people with behavioral health conditions.



Cross-sector collaboration

Health stakeholders can use the following best practices to develop productive partnerships with organizations in the housing sector:

- **Follow partners online:** Sign up to receive email newsletters and review materials from partners (blog posts, publications, reports, etc.)
- **Find out what motivates them:** Learn about what might motivate other organizations to partner with you. Gather information about the goals, priorities, constraints and opportunities they face so that you can identify potential areas for mutually beneficial collaboration.
- **Build relationships:** Relationships are foundational for any sustainable partnership. Take time to build trust and a positive rapport with community members and potential partner organizations.
- **Let them know how you can help them:** Rather than telling potential partners how they can help you, focus on the resources and expertise you bring to the table and how partnership could benefit their mission or bottom line.
- **Use effective messaging:** Keep your communications concise and simple, with a clear understanding of your audience and objective. Avoid using jargon and acronyms that may not be known outside of your organization/sector.

Community engagement

It is also important to engage community members when selecting, advocating for and implementing the housing recommendations in this guide. Community members have first-hand experience that can guide your work on how to best implement the recommendations and benefit the most people. Considerations for engaging community members include:

- **Build relationships and trust early in the planning process.** Establish strong connections and trust early in the planning process to avoid pitfalls or missed opportunities later.
- **Extend and share power.** Invite and involve people from communities most at risk for infant mortality in each aspect of decision-making, including making sure they have the background information needed to fully participate.
- **Recognize current and historical community context.** Be aware of successes and challenges from previous engagement efforts, including prior issues or conflicts that may have contributed to ongoing mistrust and disengagement. Understand that rebuilding trust may take time, and the profound effect that racism and other forms of discrimination have had on communities.
- **Resolve barriers to engagement.** Assess and address any barriers that may prevent community members from participating in engagement efforts, including safe and accessible meeting locations, accessible meeting times, compensation and the provision of meals, child care and/or transportation.

For more guidance on collaboration with key partners, see the [Coalition-Building Worksheet](#).



Data for action

Effective use of data can strengthen efforts to implement the housing recommendations. Data makes it possible to:

- **Understand and prioritize:** Review existing data to better understand the scope, trends and inequities in housing challenges. These insights can inform prioritization of specific goals and recommendations.
- **Advocate:** Pair data with stories to effectively communicate about the need for policy change.
- **Monitor:** Transparently share data as a tool to monitor change and hold decisionmakers accountable for progress.
- **Evaluate and improve:** Assess the impact of policy change over time and make adjustments to strengthen effectiveness, focusing on equitable outcomes with disaggregated data.

Figure 3 provides a list of relevant housing indicators and data sources.

Figure 3. **Housing indicators and data sources**

Indicator	Description	Source	Available breakouts
Affordable and available housing units (extremely low income)	Number of affordable and available units per 100 extremely low-income renters (earning less than 30% AMI)	Ohio Housing Finance Agency	Regional-level available*
Housing cost burden and severe housing cost burden	Percent of households that are cost burdened (spending over 30% of income on housing costs) or severely cost burdened (spending over 50% of income on housing costs)	National Equity Atlas	Race/ethnicity, poverty level, gender
Housing wage	Amount of hours one has to work per week, earning minimum wage, to afford a one-bedroom rental home at fair market rent	National Low Income Housing Coalition	State metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas available**
Eviction rate	Number of evictions per 100 renter households	Eviction Lab	Race, ethnicity, disability status, income
Emergency rental assistance priority index	An index estimates the level of need in a census tract by measuring the prevalence of low-income renters who are at risk of experiencing housing instability and homelessness	Urban Institute	Only available at the census tract level

*Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest available

** Non-metropolitan areas are aggregated into one value



State plans

The following state plans and initiatives are relevant to the Action and Accountability housing recommendations:

- The **2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan** and the **2020-2022 Strategic Action Plan on Aging** included a housing affordability and quality objective along with strategies and relevant resources.
- The **2023 OHFA Annual Plan** includes key challenges and opportunities to achieving the agency's mission and vision. The challenges and opportunities include those for the agency and for single and multifamily homes. The Plan also includes the agency's strategic priorities. OHFA also releases the **Ohio Housing Needs Assessment** which brings together a variety of data to describe the housing challenges in the state. The 2022 assessment, the most recently available, is split into regional reports.
- The **final report** of the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives Eliminating Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force includes recommendations and action steps related to housing, such as increasing access to affordable housing by partnering with existing affordable housing programs to understand roadblocks to inclusive housing.
- The **COVID-19 Ohio Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint** includes recommendations to increase safe and affordable housing (e.g., continuing to fund the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and implementing services and policies to prevent evictions).

To learn more

For more information and tools related to improving housing policy, see the following:

- **Regional Housing Strategy**, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- **Rapid Re-Housing Toolkit**, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- **Medicaid Housing-Related Services and Partnerships**, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- **Medicaid's Role in Housing**, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission
- **How to Seal Eviction Records: Guidance for Legislative Drafting**, Upturn, Inc.
- **Statewide Edition: Pay to Stay Technical Guidance**, Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio
- **Crafting a Strong and Effective Source of Income Discrimination Law**, Poverty and Race Research Action Council
- **Engaging and Supporting Landlords through Risk Mitigation Funds**, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- **Tool: Inclusionary Zoning, The Housing Affordability Toolkit**, National Multifamily Housing Council



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Project leads

Hailey Akah, JD, MA

Amy Bush Stevens, MSW, MPH

Authors

Jacob Santiago, MSW

June Postalakis, HPIO intern

Graphic design and layout

Nick Wiselogel, MA

Contributors

Carrie Almasi, MPA

Becky Carroll, MPA

Lexi Chirakos, PhD

Edith Nkenganyi, BA

Amy Rohling McGee, MSW

Notes

1. *A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity: Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Legislative Service Commission, 2017. <https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/social-determinants-of-infant-mortality-advisory-group/>; Health Policy Institute of Ohio. "Housing affordability and health equity." April 2021.
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5. *Ohio's Time: Budget of the State of Ohio FY 2024-2025. Investing in Bold Beginnings*. Columbus, OH: Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, 2023. https://archives.obm.ohio.gov/Files/Budget_and_Planning/Operating_Budget/Fiscal_Years_2024-2025/Factsheet/Bold_Beginnings.pdf
6. **Ohio Revised Code § 1.08**
7. The communities with their own Continuum of Care are Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark and Summit Counties.

