

HB 7 Strong Foundations Act

Pregnancy and postpartum mobile application

- ♣ Requires the Department of Health (ODH), in collaboration with the Department of Medicaid (ODM), to issue a request for proposals for the creation of a mobile application that provides information and resources to pregnant and postpartum women in Ohio who are eligible for Medicaid.

- ♣ Appropriates \$500,000 in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to be used for the creation of the mobile application.

Healthy Beginnings at Home

- ♣ Appropriates \$5 million in FY 2024 and \$3 million in FY 2025 to support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Infant vitality supports

- ♣ Requires ODM to conduct a study regarding the reimbursement of evidence-based peer-to-peer programming that supports infant vitality.

- ♣ Appropriates \$1 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to fund Centering Pregnancy services and other evidence-based and evidence-informed group pregnancy education programs and targeted outreach in areas of the state where there are gaps in those services.

- ♣ Appropriates \$1 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to establish a community-based grant program to expand access to infant vitality supports.

Help Me Grow

- ♣ Revises the law governing Help Me Grow, including by requiring the Department of Children and Youth (ODCY) to streamline its central intake and referral system to ensure

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that services are received from home visiting programs using evidence-based or evidence-informed models, such as the Early Head Start Home-Based Option.

- ♣ Appropriates \$5 million in FY 2024 and \$3 million in FY 2025 to assist Help Me Grow, as well as other provisions described below including awareness of parenting programs and expanding fatherhood programs.

Early Intervention Part C

- ♣ Requires Early Intervention (EI) Part C rules to deem infants born before 28 weeks of gestational age eligible for EI without other required conditions.

- ♣ Requires EI rules to grant to infants born between 28-38 weeks gestational age home visiting services, including a developmental screening, and if appropriate, a referral for EI services.

- ♣ Requires the ODCY to include information regarding the above services in its annual report and provide a copy to the General Assembly.

- ♣ Appropriates \$2 million in FY 2024 to provide early intervention services to infants born before 28 weeks of gestational age and infants born between 28-38 weeks of gestational age.

WIC enrollment

- ♣ Requires ODH to investigate and determine the feasibility of incorporating a variety of changes to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) enrollment and benefit distribution processes.

- ♣ Requires ODH to submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the results of its investigation.

- ♣ Appropriates \$2.0 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to support these efforts.

Early childhood mental health services

- ♣ Requires the Medicaid Director, by June 30, 2025, to evaluate and update the Medicaid program's coverage of evidence-based mental health and dyadic family therapy services for young children and their caregivers.

- ♣ Requires the evaluation and updates to address mental health screening for mothers and young children and include follow-up for family dyadic therapies and other child mental health services for those with identified risk.

- ♣ Requires the Medicaid Director to develop policy and billing guidance for Medicaid providers regarding the coverage.

- ♣ Requires the Medicaid Director to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly with specified information about the coverage.

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Medical legal partnership grant program

- ♣ Requires ODH to establish a program to award grants to legal service organizations and medical providers that partner together to identify pregnant women, mothers, and children in need of legal services and to provide them with those services.
- ♣ Appropriates \$1 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to be used for grant awards.

Head Start and Step Up to Quality

- ♣ Requires the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to rate each licensed child day-care center and family day-care home operating a Head Start or Early Head Start program in the Step Up to Quality tier that ODJFS has determined corresponds with minimum Head Start or National Association for the Education of Young Children standards.

Resiliency grant pilot program

- ♣ Requires ODJFS to establish a pilot program to assist in the development of quality, comprehensive child care programs like Early Head Start across Ohio, with an emphasis on communities experiencing both high infant mortality rates and limited access to child care, for families at risk of being part of the child welfare system.
- ♣ Appropriates \$3 million in both FY 2024 and FY 2025 to fund the program.

Parenting programs

- ♣ Requires ODJFS to develop strategies for state agencies to use in informing parents, caregivers, and child care providers about evidence-based parenting education programs, such as “Triple P,” and to promote their benefits.
- ♣ Requires ODCY to use some of the Help Me Grow funds appropriated by the bill to also support these efforts.

Doula services

- ♣ Establishes a program in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for certified doulas to provide doula services to inmates participating in a prison nursery program.

Designation

- ♣ Designates the above provisions as the Strong Foundations Act.

Hearing aid coverage

- ♣ Requires health plan issuers to cover hearing aids and related services for persons 21 years of age and younger.