



May 29, 2025

Senate

Health Committee

Partnerships for Advancing Community Health
2026-27 Budget Testimony

Re: Support for Continued Investment in the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and the Pathways Community HUB Model

Good morning Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Senator Johnson and Ranking Minority Member Senator Liston and esteemed members of the Senate Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of continued and stable funding for the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and its critical investment in the Pathways Community HUB model.

In Ohio, we have built something unique and powerful. One by one, communities across the state have adopted the Pathways Community HUB model as a strategic approach to improving health outcomes. This model enables us to identify risks such as lack of access to prenatal care, housing, transportation barriers, food insecurity—and systematically connect individuals to the services and supports they need to achieve better health.

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health was both an early adopter of the model and has been a cornerstone of this growth. Its funding support targets 3,000 high-risk pregnant women annually. This population faces some of the greatest barriers to health in our state. This funding has directly improved birth outcomes as reflected in the CY23 HUB statewide black singleton preterm rate of 11.8 compared to the 2024 March of Dimes Report Card statewide black preterm rate of 14.7.

This is work that saves lives, reduces costs, and builds healthier families. While we have made important progress, ongoing challenges remain. Stable, continued funding for the Commission is essential to preserve its capacity to serve these women and the communities they represent.

The Pathways model is not experimental. It is a proven, evidence-based, peer-reviewed, nationally certified, pay-for-performance model, endorsed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



What began with the pioneering work of the Pathways Community HUB in Mansfield has now grown to 12 certified HUBs serving 77 counties.

These HUBs provide essential infrastructure—including the use of common data systems, payer relationships, and care coordination teams—all operating with strong accountability measures. They are helping communities across the state, whether urban, suburban, or rural, achieve better outcomes.

As the statewide membership organization for Ohio's HUBs, Partnerships for Advancing Community Health supports and connects all 12 HUBs. In 2024 alone, through diversified funding sources, these HUBs served more than 16,000 individuals, leveraging both the experience of long-standing programs and the innovation of newly certified HUBs to deliver results rooted in community understanding and evidence.

The Commission's investment has been transformative, and its continued support will ensure that this progress is not only sustained but deepened. This is an investment in Ohio's future: healthier individuals, stronger families, and more resilient communities.

I welcome any follow-up via phone or email and would be glad to provide additional information or data as needed.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing support of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and the Pathways Community HUB model.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mills, MPA

Executive Director
Partners for Advancing Community Health (PACH)