



# Caring Communities Mini-Grant Program

## PURPOSE

The Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network would like announce the availability of funding for a limited number of projects that will **provide an opportunity to build awareness and provide peer support to families across the state of Ohio that have experienced the loss of an infant.**

The Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network is offering funds to support community outreach efforts that:

- 1) Increase public awareness of the emotional impact of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death.
- 2) Provide an opportunity to inform Ohioans of the diverse resources that exist within the community that can provide comfort in time of an infant lost
- 3) Encourage the opportunity for families to tell their stories as a means to validate their experience, provide comfort, and reverse isolation.

While the grieving process is natural and necessary, many parents and families are not aware of the services and resources available to them. Many suffer in silence, unaware that persistent, consuming grief may increase the risk of depression, substance abuse, suicide, and serious health issues, such as heart problems, high blood pressure, and cancer –until it's too late. It's also known to rip families and friendships apart at a time when those bonds are needed most.

It is important that parents/caregivers understand that Sudden Unexpected Infant Death it is an accepted and appropriate designation as an official cause of death – an unexplainable one. Unfortunately, in some cases, community members may blame the parents for the death and view law enforcement involvement as a clear sign that the death occurred under suspicious circumstances. In some communities, even today, parents are wrongly suspected of intentionally causing the death of their baby.” It is also true that many people in the community may be extremely sympathetic and concerned for the parents and family, but unsure or uncomfortable about how to express their support. Supporting a grieving person is an important job.

Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network recognizes that each community has a wealth of knowledge. The objective to help community members engage with one another while validating the need to grieve. The goal is to bring people together by strengthening communities and enabling people to 'reach out' by identifying and utilizing resources already established around them.

## BACKGROUND

**Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID)** are defined as deaths that occur suddenly and unexpectedly in infants less than 1 year of age, and whose cause of death are not immediately obvious prior to investigation. After a full investigation, these causes of death may be diagnosed as suffocation, asphyxia, entrapment, infection, ingestions, metabolic diseases, cardiac arrhythmias, trauma (accidental or non-accidental), or SIDS. **Sleep Related Infant Deaths** are those deaths that happen suddenly and unexpectedly in a sleep environment.

**Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)** is marked by the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation - including the performance of an autopsy, examination of the death scene, and a review of the clinical history.

In Ohio from 2011-2015, sleep-related infant deaths accounted for 16% (770) of all infant deaths reviewed and 60% (461) for infants between one month and three months of age. Eighty-nine percent of reviewed sleep-related deaths were for infants between 29 days and 1 year of age. Fifty-three percent (406) of these deaths occurred to infants who were sharing a sleep surface with another person (bed sharing). Among reviews indicating bed sharing, infants most often shared a sleep surface with an adult (69%), an adult and another child (18%), or another child (6%). Only 23% (177) occurred in cribs or bassinets! In addition, forty-eight percent of sleep-related infant deaths were diagnosed as an undetermined cause and 11% were diagnosed as SIDS. Infants were put to sleep on their back in 40% of reviewed deaths.\*

According to 2015 infant mortality data released by the Ohio Department of Health, 1,005 infants died before their first birthday, an increase from 955 deaths in 2014. Racial disparities persist with Ohio's white infant mortality rate at 5.5 and the black infant mortality rate at 15.1. Black infants are dying at nearly 3 times the rate of white infants.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- A complete application form and a detailed project budget must be submitted. Please do not include other printed materials, CD's, videos or audiotapes. Any such additional materials will not be considered. All applications must be completed and delivered by mail or email in accordance with the instructions contained herein. Requests will be reviewed by the Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network advisory committee.
- Amount requested may not exceed **\$500**. Applications that describe cash and in-kind matching funds will be viewed more favorably.
- Requests must be postmarked by the dates below for consideration, and any requests received after the deadline may be rejected or held for future cycles, as determined by the Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network advisory committee. Projects cannot begin before the specified project start date of **April 29, 2019** and must be completed by **June 17, 2019**. There are no exceptions.
- All approved mini-grant applications will be required to have a representative participate in a **mandatory orientation webinar/meeting** scheduled approximately one week after award notification. Additional information regarding this meeting will be included in your notice of award letter, if approved for funding.
- All approved applicants are required to send a representative who must be prepared to present on the organization's mini-grant activities and project highlights at a **mandatory closeout webinar/meeting** that will be held approximately one week after the project period ends.

\*Ohio Child Fatality Review Sixteenth Annual Report

## **PROJECT TIMELINE:**

**Community of Care Mini-Grant projects will occur between April 29 – June 17, 2019.**

Grant Technical Assistance Conference Call: **Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 7 pm**

Application deadline: **Friday, April 12, 2019**

Award notification date: **Friday, April 19, 2019**

Orientation Webinar: **Thursday, April 25, 2019, 7 pm**

Closeout Webinar/Meeting and Final Reports Due: **Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 7 pm**

The Grant Technical Assistance Conference Call is new to our mini-grant proposal process but is not required. Open to any prospective applicant, this is an opportunity to ask your questions about the grant's requirements and/or guidelines. To participate in the one-hour call, at 7 **pm, Wednesday, April 3, 2019:** dial **1 (510) 338-9438 Access Code 626 312 824**

For questions pertaining to this mini-grant program or application, please contact **Dr. Stacy Scott, at [stacy.scott@baby1stnetwork.org](mailto:stacy.scott@baby1stnetwork.org) or (330) 929-9911**

## **TERMS AND/OR GUIDELINES**

- The programs created with the assistance of a *Caring Communities Mini-Grant* should be promoted and offered to the general public within the state of Ohio, with special emphasis directed to underserved populations and/or geographic areas within the state of Ohio including African American communities.
- Only tax-exempt organizations are eligible to apply. Eligible groups may include but are not limited to civic and neighborhood organizations, social service groups, cultural organizations, and faith-based organizations. Commercial, for-profit businesses, and individuals are ineligible. All projects should be open and promoted to the general public. The Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network cannot fund projects when the purpose or content of the project is to advance a religious ideology.
- *Caring Communities Mini-Grants* are not intended to be a recurring funding source for organizations, as one of the goals of the program is to distribute funds across the many geographic regions and cultural communities throughout the state. In general, organizations can only receive one grant per the calendar year.
- *Caring Communities Mini-Grants* will not be awarded for the following:
  - Dues
  - Operating deficits and/or support
  - Publication of books
  - Capital improvements/building projects
  - Chairs or professorships
  - Endowments, annual fund drives, direct mail solicitation, fundraising events
  - Purchase of food and advertising space.
  - Prior approval from the Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network must be received if funds will be used to purchase products such as T-shirts, cribs, crib sheets, and sleep sacks.
  - Projects intended to influence legislation or support candidates for political office
  - Use by another foundation or organization to distribute the funds to recipients of its own selection. The Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network reserves the right, under certain circumstances, to make exceptions to the above.
- Organizations receiving funds through the *Caring Communities Mini-Grant* Program must acknowledge support through the placement of the Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network logo on all project-related printed materials, including websites. Verbal acknowledgment must be given where printed acknowledgment is not possible. Prior approval of any materials upon which either logo will be placed should first be obtained from the Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network.

• **A minimum of 20 participants** must be reached with the project. Success of an event will be taken into consideration in connection with any future mini-grant applications. All approved applicants will be required to document activities, lesson learned – both positive and negative, and complete all project forms. Sign-in sheets are required at each project event. Please take photos if possible.

1. Organizations receiving funds through the program must submit a brief final report on the funded project, including actual date(s) of occurrence, project outcomes, summary of expenditures paid for with awarded funds, photo documentation of project, survey results and evaluation results including audience/beneficiary feedback, by the mandatory closeout meeting.
2. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Each proposal will be considered on its own merit. Additional information may be requested if it will assist in the review process. The Baby 1<sup>st</sup> Network reserves the right to reject an *Community of Care Mini-Grant* application for any reason, including a missed deadline or incomplete information.

This program made possible through funding from these annual events: *Nolan P. Fisher Golf Outing, Corbin Hastings Memorial Day Ride/Run, Laura Elizabeth Pease Memorial Golf Outing, Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Golf Outing, SIDS Golf Benefit, Justin Prestage Golf Outing and Auction and Grant's SIDS 5k Run/Walk.*