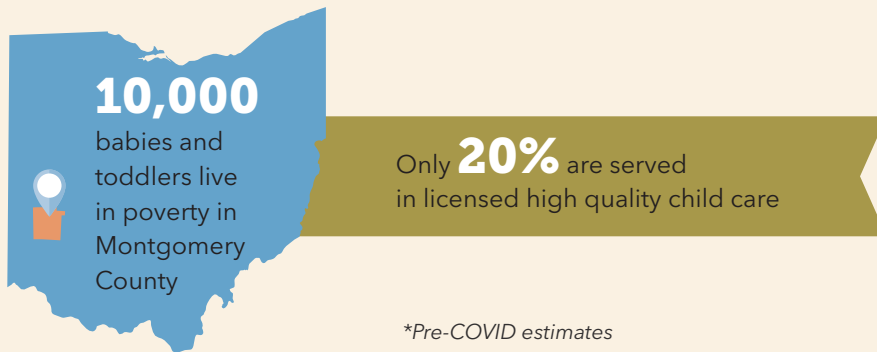




# Birth to 3 Collaborative Update

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS | JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020

The Montgomery County Birth to 3 Collaborative is dedicated to improving access to high quality health care and early learning for all children. We are especially focused on children experiencing poverty and Black families who lack equitable access to health care and early interventions that can set up their children for life-long success.



## Our Collaborative's priorities are:

**1. Increasing the quality of health care and early learning for young children**

**2. Increasing equitable access to these critical services**

**3. Increasing investment in young children when the return is greatest**



### Increasing quality

- **30 infant and toddler teachers** joined a new 9-month-long Professional Learning Community offered by Preschool Promise where they will learn how to use Conscious Discipline with children from 0-3.
- **16 infant and toddler teachers, coaches and administrators** from 5 local child care centers are getting training and coaching focused on developing high-quality language and emergent literacy skills in their 0-3 classrooms.
- We're analyzing data to track access to health and early learning services **broken down by zip code, race, ethnicity and income.**



### Increasing access

- **A new playful learning experience** for young children and families is being designed for the plaza of Gem City Market. Watch for the unveiling in Spring 2021.
- Over **9,000 Montgomery County children from Birth to 5** are enrolled in the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library initiative. We're on track to hit 10,000 by the end of the year. Children enrolled in the program are mailed a free book every month until they turn 5.
- **Moms2B**, an innovative program for Montgomery County pregnant women and new moms experiencing poverty, launched in September. Learn more [here](#).



### Increasing investment

- A consortium of child care providers that collectively serve over 1,200 infants and toddlers received a **4-year \$300,000** grant from the Ohio Department of Education to promote language and literacy in infant/toddler classrooms.
- **Montgomery County**, in partnership with the Children's Defense Fund Ohio, Groundwork Ohio, and 2 other communities, will be implementing a new model of supporting infants, toddlers and families in juvenile court and state assistance programs. A **\$425,000 grant** provided by a State Expansion Grant from ZERO TO THREE will support the State initiative.
- Learn to Earn received a **3-year \$350,000 Community Innovation Grant** from the **Pritzker Children's Initiative** to expand high quality Birth to 3 services.



### A Word from Montgomery County Commissioner Carolyn A. Rice

#### Federal and state help needed to care for pregnant women and children

When I taught children with special needs, I saw the importance of investing in children in the earliest years – when interventions have the most benefit and cost the least. Montgomery County believes in investing in children. It's why we support our community's Birth-3 Collaborative that is expanding support to more babies and toddlers, and it's why we were the first to support the Dayton-Montgomery County Preschool Promise.

But local communities need help from the top – our state and federal governments – to provide evidence-based home visiting; to ensure all pregnant women and young children receive health care; and to provide quality, enriching early care.

Dayton Daily News *Letter to the Editor*, October 14, 2020

### What Birth to 3 Providers want you to know

- **Access to mental health counseling and support for new moms suffering from post-partum depression has long-term positive impact** on the development and early learning of their children.
- Child care programs that accept infants and toddlers are at risk of closing because of necessary, but costly, new health and safety rules designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **The shortage of child care for our youngest children is likely to get worse.**

