



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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www.odh.ohio.gov

John R. Kasich/Governor

Richard Hodges/Director of Health

Date: May 2, 2016

To: Interested Parties

From: Sandra D. Oxley, Chief 
Bureau of Maternal and Child Health

Subject: Notice of Availability of Funds - State Fiscal Year 2017
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 Choose Life Fund

The Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health announces the availability of funding through the Choose Life Fund. The Choose Life Fund provides eligible organizations with funding for the provision of services to pregnant women within the state of Ohio planning to place their children for adoption. Created in the State Treasury pursuant to Section 3701.65 of the Ohio Revised Code (Revised Code), the Choose Life Fund consists of contributions paid to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles by applicants who voluntarily elect to obtain Choose Life license plates pursuant to section 4503.81 of the Revised Code and any money returned to the fund and investment earnings. To participate, an organization must meet the definition of an "eligible organization."

To obtain a grant application packet:

1. Go to the ODH website at www.odh.ohio.gov
2. From the home page under A-Z index click on F and go to "Funding Opportunities"
3. From this page click on "Choose Life Funds"
4. Select "Notice of Availability of Funds" to read about the program
5. Next select application to apply for funding
6. Make sure all counties that you serve are listed in the application

I. APPLICATION SUMMARY AND GUIDANCE PURPOSE

In 2005, the 125th Ohio General Assembly adopted language creating the Choose Life Fund. The program administers the Choose Life Fund which provides funding to organizations around Ohio that assist women who plan to place their children for adoption.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

The targets for the Choose Life funds are women who are considering placing their children for adoption. Part of the funding may be used for advertising and to direct women to the organizations.

Funds can be used for pregnant women who are considering adoption and are in need of services such as counseling, clothing, housing, medical care, food, utilities and transportation. The following criteria are crucial to a successful application:

- Is a private, nonprofit organization;
- Is committed to counseling pregnant women about the option of adoption;

- Provides services within the state of Ohio to pregnant women who are planning to place their children for adoption, including counseling and meeting the material needs of the women;
- Does not charge pregnant women for any services received;
- Is not involved or associated with any abortion activities, including counseling for or referrals to abortion clinics, providing medical abortion-related procedures, or pro-abortion advertising;
- Does not discriminate in its provision of any service on the basis of race, religion, color, marital status, national origin, handicap, gender or age.

II. NUMBER OF GRANT AND FUNDS

- The director shall allocate the funds to each county in proportion to the number of “choose life” license plates issued during the preceding year to vehicles registered in each county. The director shall distribute funds allocated for a county as follows:
 - (a) To one or more eligible organizations located within the county;
 - (b) If no eligible organization located within the county applies for funding, to one or more eligible organizations located in contiguous counties;
 - (c) If no eligible organization located within the county or a contiguous county applies for funding, to one or more eligible organizations within any other county.
- The director shall ensure that any funds allocated for a county are distributed equally among eligible organizations that apply for funding within the county.
- Organizations that wish to obtain funding from the Choose Life Fund shall apply by June 1, 2016, for distribution of the funds.
- If the organization received Choose Life funds during the previous year, the organization shall submit with the application an audited financial statement verifying its compliance with this rule regarding the use of funds distributed to the organization during the previous year. If the organization does not traditionally have an audited financial statement and to have one would create a hardship, the organization may submit the expenditure tracking form or a notarized financial statement form.
- All unspent funds in excess of 10 percent must be returned to the Ohio Department of Health by June 1, 2017.

III. UNALLOWABLE COSTS

- None of the funds can be used for administrative expenses, legal expenses, or capital expenditures;
 - Use not more than 60% percent of the funds received for the material needs of pregnant women planning to place their children for adoption or for infants awaiting placement with adoptive parents, including clothing, housing, medical care, food, utilities and transportation;
 - Use not more than 40% percent of the funds received for counseling, training, or advertising;
 - Counseling and training funds cannot be spent for adoptive families. Counseling services are for birth families; and
 - Cannot be involved or associated with any abortion activities, including counseling for or referrals to abortion clinics, providing medical abortion related procedures or pro-abortion advertising.
- Interested applicants shall complete the application in accordance with the instructions and submit by **mail only** no later than June 1, 2016 to:

Ohio Department of Health
Choose Life Fund
Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
246 North High Street_6th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Attention: Marius Igwe
marius.igwe@odh.ohio.gov

Questions regarding the application process can be directed to Marius Igwe at (614) 466-4634.