



A Prescription for Health, Hope, and Opportunity

Cash for Pregnant Moms and Babies

A Prescription for Health, Hope & Opportunity



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Agenda

- Rx Kids background
- Numbers to date in Flint
- Research
- Expansion!
- Q&A

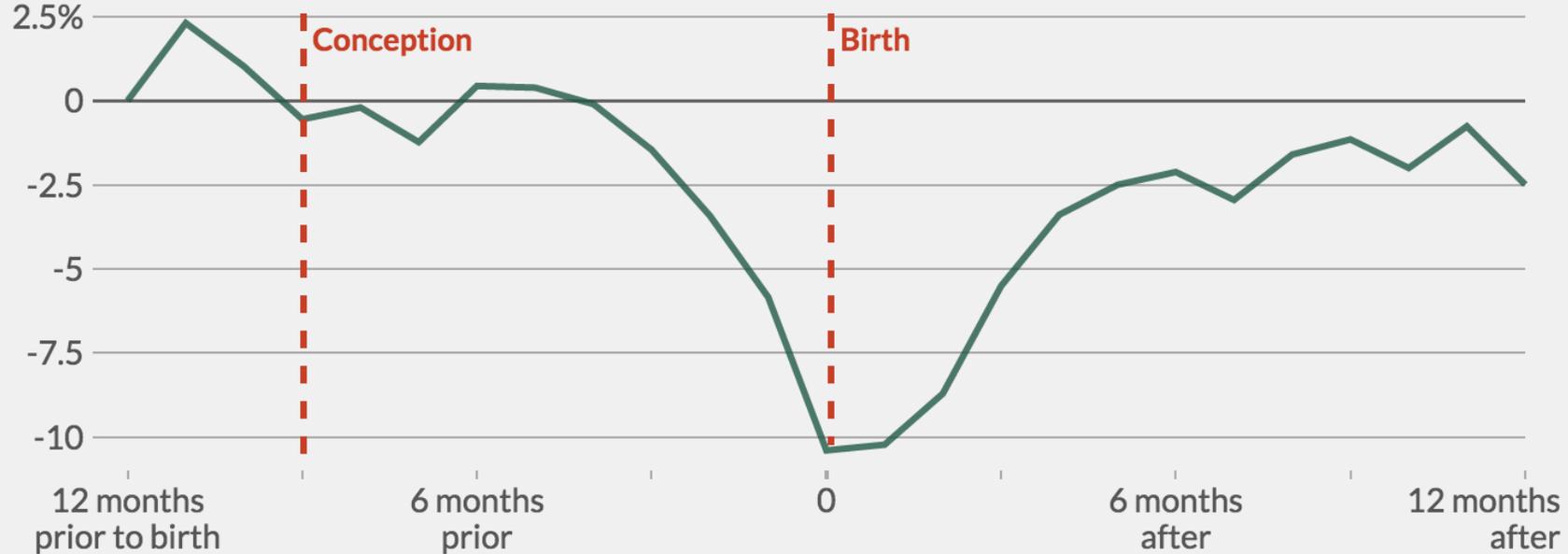




Income drops around childbirth

Family income drops sharply near the birth of a child

Percentage change in gross U.S. household income compared to 12 months prior to birth



Source: Stanczyk, Alexandra. (2016). "The dynamics of household economic circumstances around a birth." Washington Center for Equitable Growth working paper series.



The science of child allowances



- Evidence from various cash transfers in high-income countries include
 - Increased:
 - Breastfeeding
 - Childhood vaccines
 - Educational attainment
 - Self-rated health
 - Parent expenditures on children
 - Time learning
 - Healthy food consumption
 - Decreased
 - Low birth weight
 - Premature births
 - Poor childhood cognitive development
 - Psych symptoms
 - Criminal behavior
- And more!**

The science of child allowances



- US evidence: Expanded Child Tax Credit in 2021
 - Unconditional cash allowances
 - Families spent \$ on: food, housing, utilities, child enrichments
 - Huge success – cut child poverty to all time low (5%) and reduced food insecurity and financial hardship, improved health for children and parents, better school performance, and reduced incidence of child abuse
 - Not renewed
- Many *small-scale* US pilots

Rx Kids Program Design



Design is science based & parent and child partnered

- Targeted universalism
 - Every pregnant person/newborn in a certain place
 - No income requirement
 - Efficient and inclusive with minimal administrative burden
- Unconditional
 - No strings-attached
 - No requirements
- Framing & narrative
- Many partners



Rx Kids Partners



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

HURLEY
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL



POVERTY SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PEDIATRIC PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE

GiveDirectly



GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION



Public Private Partnership > \$75M committed!



Rx Kids is supported by City of Flint American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.



HURLEY FOUNDATION

M&MFisher
Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation



DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION®



Rx Kids: By the Numbers



As of August 19



\$2,714,500

Cash prescribed!





Research



Rx Kids Outcomes & Research



Families' basic needs

Economic stability; material hardship; food insecurity; housing stability



Maternal & infant health

Prematurity; birthweight; infant mortality; maternal morbidity/mortality; postpartum depression; breastfeeding initiation/maintenance



Early childhood health

Immunization; lead screening; early literacy; neurocognitive development; stress biomarkers; ACES/PCEs; child welfare



Adult health

Parental stress; wellbeing; physical and mental health; happiness; hope; dignity; trust; intimate partner violence; substance abuse



Health processes

Prenatal and well child visit attendance; maternal-infant support programs; enrichment participation; safety net demand; child protective services involvement; ED and inpatient hospitalization



Community benefits

Employment rate; birth rate; civic engagement; economic reinvestment; neighborhood safety/order; population stability



In May 2024, 112 moms responded to the first Rx Kids survey. Here are some key findings that share how Rx Kids is improving the lives of Flint families:



“[Rx Kids] has given us more financial stability. It has **helped us with a home, a car, food, and more.** It has **made me feel like a parent that can provide,** [and] the things that I've done with it will reflect in my life.”
- Savannah

~80%

of participants feel that Rx Kids has helped them **make ends meet** and feel more **secure in their finances**

Early findings



Rx Kids Expansion

Rx Kids Expansion Options



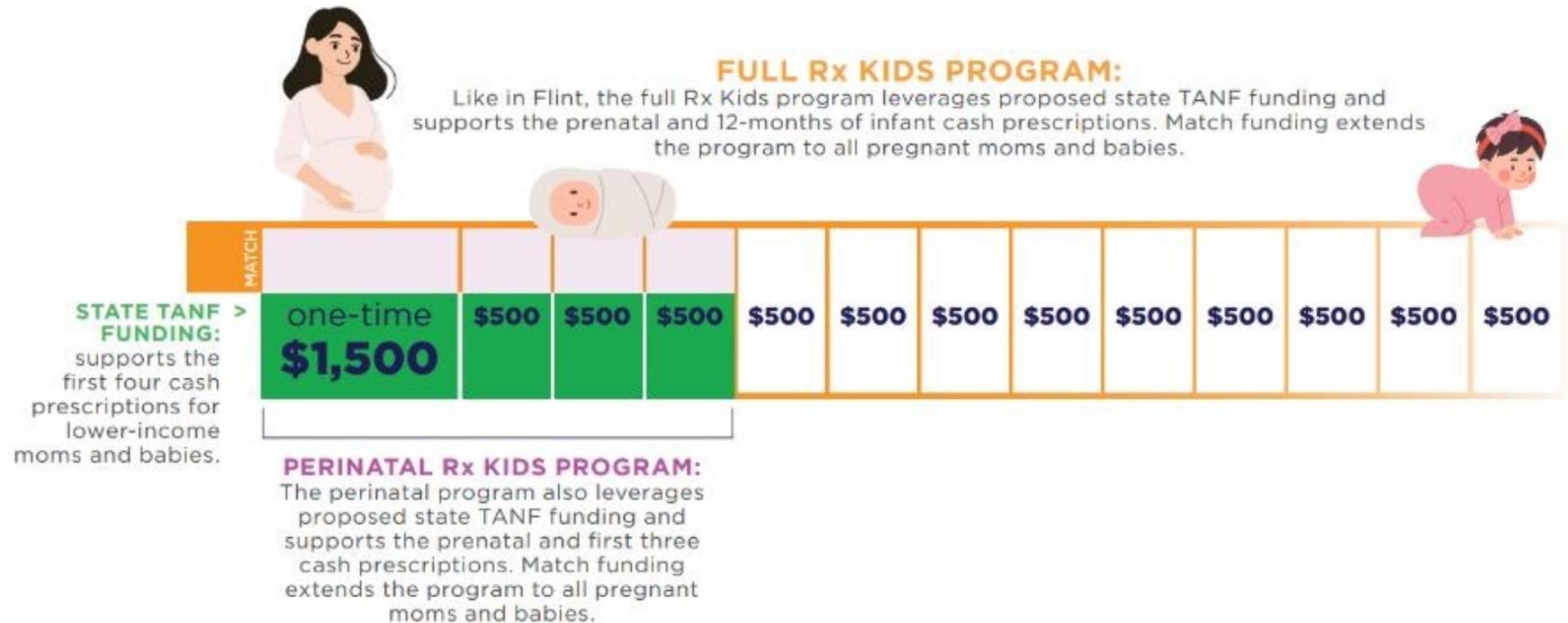
Universal Full Program (like Flint)

- \$1500 lump sum
- \$500 monthly for the first 12 months of life
- More \$ to raise



Universal Perinatal Program

- \$1500 lump sum
- \$500 monthly for the first 3 months of life
- Less \$ to raise





Rx Kids Expansion

- In July, Gov. Whitmer signed state budget, Rx Kids received \$20M in TANF for ***Rx Kids Expansion!!!***
- HUGE! HISTORIC!
- In partnership with state leadership, legislative leaders, foundations, nonprofits, moms, and more... we have been working to identify communities of need with interest in Rx Kids



Rx Kids

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KALAMAZOO



Rx Kids: Kalamazoo



Vetting

- Core group of funders expressed interest in direct cash
- Nationwide scan of models
- Identification of Rx Kids as ideal model due to connection to other initiatives/community issues

Building

- Coalition building—engaging with stakeholders to explore the what if's, unintended impacts
- Development of Local Written Brief to Share with Potential Stakeholders (inc. cost projections)
- Community Pulse Check- Survey of Pregnant Moms

Executing

- Formalizing Support & Advocating for FY 25 Budget Inclusion
- Fund Development (ongoing)
- Implementation planning—how do we maximize impact in our local context



Key Ingredients in Kalamazoo

- Lead person(s) and/or entity to facilitate/convene and document
- Knowledge of community context and partners whose work intersects with Rx Kids
- Open dialogue regarding concerns/objections (general and local) so they can be overcome
- Diversity of thought/experience/identities as early in exploration as possible
- Constant cadence of communication

Thank You!



@flintrxkids



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