

RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND IMPROVE
MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH OUTCOMES**

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Health recognizes that infant mortality is one of the most important indicators of the overall health and well-being of a community; and

WHEREAS, infant mortality represents a profound human tragedy for families and communities and imposes significant social, emotional, and economic costs; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County has experienced infant mortality rates that have historically exceeded national averages and has continued to face persistent disparities in birth outcomes among racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates that factors contributing to infant mortality include inadequate prenatal care, low birth weight, prematurity, unsafe sleep environments, maternal health conditions, poverty, transportation barriers, housing instability, and limited access to healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the importance of addressing the social, economic, environmental, and healthcare-related conditions that influence maternal and infant health outcomes in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Department of Health and its community partners have implemented programs and initiatives to improve maternal and infant health in Jefferson County, including community health worker support, safe-sleep education, breastfeeding promotion, fetal and infant mortality review activities, and coordinated maternal and child health services; and

WHEREAS, reducing infant mortality requires collaboration among healthcare providers, hospitals, community organizations, educational institutions, governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that every child deserves an opportunity to survive and thrive and that every family deserves access to quality healthcare and supportive services before, during, and after pregnancy.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to fund these efforts in Jefferson County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jefferson County Board of Health:

1. Affirms that reducing infant mortality and improving maternal and infant health outcomes shall remain a public health priority for Jefferson County.

2. Supports evidence-based strategies to improve access to prenatal, perinatal, and postpartum care; promote safe sleep practices; reduce low birth weight and preterm births; expand breastfeeding support; strengthen connections to community resources; and address social determinants of health in Jefferson County.

3. Encourages continued collaboration among healthcare systems, community organizations, educational institutions, philanthropic partners, and governmental agencies.

4. Supports efforts to identify and reduce disparities in infant mortality and birth outcomes through data-driven and equity-focused approaches in Jefferson County.

5. Encourages the Jefferson County Department of Health to continue supporting maternal and child health initiatives, outreach, education, and collaborative review of infant mortality trends in Jefferson County.

6. Encourages advocacy for policies and investments that improve access to healthcare, transportation, housing stability, nutrition assistance, behavioral health services, and other supports that contribute to healthy pregnancies and healthy infants in Jefferson County.

7. The Board requests periodic updates regarding infant mortality trends, maternal health indicators, and progress toward reducing disparities and improving birth outcomes in Jefferson County.

8. Approves transfer of \$2,000,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the General Fund Committed Fund Balance to fund these efforts in Jefferson County.

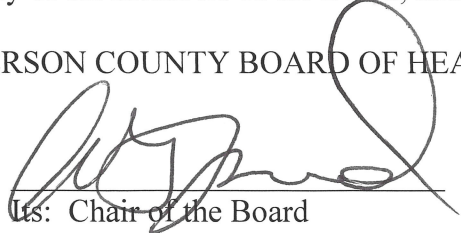
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Jefferson County Board of Health calls upon all sectors of the community to join in a coordinated effort to ensure that every infant in Jefferson County has the opportunity for a healthy start in life and that every family has access to the support necessary to promote safe and healthy pregnancies and infancy.

The undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed and approved by a majority of the members of the Board, and inscribed this, the 12th day of August 2026.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY:


Its: Chair of the Board

Date: August 12, 2026

BY:


Its: Health Officer

Date: August 12, 2026