



APRIL LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER FROM State Rep. Stephanie Howse House District 11

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[fb.com/RepStephanieHowse](https://www.facebook.com/RepStephanieHowse)



From the Desk of Rep. Howse

Dear Neighbor,

April is Financial Literacy Month. This is recognized in an effort to highlight the importance of financial literacy and to educate Americans on how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits.

Understanding our finances is vitally important, due to the rise of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted our economy across the state. I'm going to share some helpful tips – for all ages.

- ⇒ **Create a budget.** The first step toward taking control of your financial life is to find out how much money you take in and how much you spend. Use our budget worksheet to get started. It can be found at bit.ly/2KXKxkT.
- ⇒ **Protect your personal information:** know who you're sharing it with; store and dispose of it securely, for example by using a cross-cut shredder instead of throwing sensitive documents in the trash or recycling; and maintain appropriate security on your computers and other electronic devices.
- ⇒ **Regularly order your free credit report from annualcreditreport.com.** Make sure your information is accurate and complete before you apply for a mortgage or other loan, buy insurance, or apply for a job. If you find errors, dispute them.

Cleveland Housing Partners offers a series of training sessions to aid in establishing financial independence. These classes, sponsored by Key Bank, feature topics pertinent to financial literacy including seminars about: credit, money management, banking, savings and investing. Please visit chnhousingpartners.org for more information.

Please join me **Monday, April 19 at 5:30pm** for my virtual office hours at [Facebook.com/RepStephanieHowse](https://www.facebook.com/RepStephanieHowse) to discuss the state budget, financial literacy month and legislative updates. My office remains open and available to assist you with any questions or concerns you have as we navigate these unprecedented times together. In the meantime, stay healthy and take care. Know that it is an honor to represent you and your family here at the Statehouse (614) 466-1414 or Rep11@ohiohouse.gov.

Yours in Service,



State Rep. Stephanie D. Howse



Have questions about COVID-19?

Call: (216) 201-2000

Or visit: www.ccbh.net/coronavirus

To determine vaccine eligibility, find providers, and receive updates and reminders visit gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov



Family Resources

Housing resources: Cuyahoga County residents who have lost income due to COVID-19 and need help paying their rent can now

call 1-833-377-7368.

They can also apply for assistance online at www.neorenthelp.org.

Utility resources: FirstEnergy and Dominion Energy are restoring service to past -due accounts.

Cleveland Water: (216) 664-3130 | Cleveland Public Power: (216) 664-4600 | First Energy / The Illuminating Company: (800) 589-3101 | Dominion Energy: (877) 542-2630 | Columbia Gas: (800) 344-4077

Senior and Adult services: For additional information on Senior and Adult Services

Call (216) 420-6700 or visit cuyahogacounty.us/senior-and-adult-services.

Student services:

For additional information on reliable high speed internet for students

Call (216) 777-3859 or visit <https://empowercle.org/>

Unemployment resources: For more information on applying for

assistance,
visit unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov
or call 1-877-644-6562.

Minority Health Month and Black Maternal Health Week

I am the Co-Chair of the State's first ever Black Maternal Health Caucus which aims to raise awareness within Ohio to establish Black maternal health as a statewide priority. This is accomplished through advocacy efforts, partnerships, education, and evidence-informed policies for health outcomes that benefit the long-term wellbeing of Black mothers, babies, and families.

April is Minority Health Month in the United States. Minority Health Month is a "month-long initiative to advance health equity across the country on behalf of all racial and ethnic minorities. This year's theme for National Minority Health Month is **#VaccineReady**. If you or someone you love would like tips on how to get vaccinated during Minority Health Month this year, please visit <https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>, which allows Ohioans to search by county, and ZIP code to find a provider in their area to administer the vaccine. *Walk-in appointments are not available at any site.* Ohio's new Vaccine Management Solution (VMS) is a streamlined tool to help Ohioans determine vaccine eligibility, find providers, and receive updates and reminders at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov

The City of Cleveland has established a call center that is currently available to answer general questions pertaining to the City's vaccine distribution efforts and assist eligible individuals in scheduling an appointment to receive the vaccine.

Call Center Number: (216) 664-2222
Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday;
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Within Minority Health Week, April 11th through 17th is the annual Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW). The members of Ohio Black Maternal Caucus support legislation and programs that improve the access to:

- ☐ Quality and affordable healthcare
- ☐ Equitable education policy and funding
- ☐ Vibrant neighborhoods
- ☐ Access to upward social mobility
- ☐ Strong and healthy social support networks

Resources to get Involved with BMHW:

Black Mamas Matter Alliance has created and compiled an amazing number of resources for people to easily access in order to get involved.

Access a toolkit at blackmamasmatter.org/bmhw/ On the toolkit are sample social media posts to help raise awareness along with shareable graphics. Local events can be looked up in order to participate in the communities where you live.

Attend the virtual **Black Maternal Health Conference** on April 16 and April 17 To register visit: <https://blackmamasmatter.org/bmhc-2021/>



The Ohio Equal Pay Act

Rep. Stephanie Howse and Rep. Jessica Miranda introduced the Ohio Equal Pay Act, legislation to recognize the full value and potential of Ohio's working women. Equal Pay Day, was recognized on March 24, 2021. The date to which the average working woman in America must work into the next calendar year to make what their male counterparts did the previous year. [For women in Ohio, that annual pay gap is nearly \\$10,000.](#)

Reps. Howse and Miranda held a virtual Equal Pay Day discussion on Equal Pay Day, which they were joined by several Ohio working women, who shared their stories and contributed to the nationwide conversation on addressing pay equity for women. Watch [the bill introduction](#) on Facebook for full discussion about why **#EqualPayCantWait**.

