Greene County Public Health
Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner
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Press Release

For Immediate Release:
November 4, 2026

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Greene County Public Health Offers Safe Sleep Education and Free Pack 'N Plays, Car Seats for Families

XENIA, OH – Every baby deserves a safe place to sleep. Greene County Public Health (GCPH) is helping local families create safe sleep spaces through its **Every Baby Sleeps Safe** program.

GCPH will hold an education and giveaway event on **Tuesday, November 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. at 360 Wilson Drive in Xenia.**

Families who qualify can receive a free Pack 'N Play and a kit of items to help keep their babies safe while sleeping. Each kit includes:

- A Pack 'N Play and a fitted sheet
- A sleep sack, onesie, and pacifier
- Safe sleep information

The event will include two sessions. Families are welcome to attend either or both sessions:

- **1 to 2 p.m.:** Families will learn how to set up and safely use their Pack 'N Play. This one-hour class will also teach parents how to create a safe place for their baby to sleep.
- **2 to 3 p.m.:** Families can get help checking and installing car seats. ***A car seat giveaway will also take place while supplies last.***

To qualify for the Every Baby Sleeps Safe program, **families must**:

- Live in Greene County,
- Be at least 32 weeks pregnant or have a child younger than 1 year old,
- Show proof of income. This may include a Medicaid card, WIC documentation, SNAP card, pay stub, or other proof of income.

The program is offered through the Ohio Department of Children and Youth.

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To qualify for the car seat giveaway, the following criteria must be met:

1. Income is within current WIC income guidelines.
2. Caregivers must provide verification of income to prove WIC eligibility, including one of the following:
    a. Pay stubs for the last 30 days
    b. WIC or Medicaid card
    c. W2s/most recent tax transcript, or benefits/award letter for unemployment
    d. ODH will follow the most recent WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines found at www.fns.usda.gov/wic.
3. Caregiver must have a child who is within the age/weight/height requirements for a car seat as follows:
    a. Child is over 5 pounds and does not exceed the weight limits for a convertible car seat, or
    b. Child is at least 2 years old, over 22 pounds, and does not exceed the weight or height limits for a combination forward-facing seat, or
    c. Child is at least 4 years old, 40 pounds, and 44 inches or more, but does not exceed the weight or height limits of the booster seat.
4. The caregiver must be present to receive a seat and must attend an educational session.

GCPH can also connect families with other helpful programs, including Help Me Grow and home visiting services. These programs offer support and resources for parents and young children.

"Every baby deserves a safe place to sleep, and every family deserves the support to make that happen," said Harley Dawson, Health Educator at Greene County Public Health. "Through this program, we provide families with a safe place for their baby to sleep, teach important safety tips, and connect them with other helpful resources."

To learn more about the **Every Baby Sleeps Safe** program, contact Harley Dawson at 937-374-5617 or email hdawson@greenecophoh.gov. Visit www.greenecophoh.gov for more information.

Together, we can help keep babies safe!

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