



**OHIO  
CHILDREN'S  
BUDGET**  
2020-2021



## COALITION MEMBERS

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## Ohio's Budget: Investing in Ohio's Children

Investing in Ohio's children is critical for Ohio's continued success. To achieve their full potential, each child must be loved, safe, cared for, healthy, educated, fed and nurtured. Unfortunately, this is not the reality for too many of Ohio's children.

Today, approximately 1 in 4 Ohio children live in poverty and the child poverty rate in Appalachia is higher with 1 in 3 children.<sup>1</sup> They are hungry, lack stable housing, and are chronically sick without access to basic health care. They are victims of abuse, neglect, or the opioid crisis and many may lack a caring and present adult in their lives. They experience high levels of trauma, increasing their risk for negative outcomes for education, health, employability, and court-involvement.<sup>2</sup> These negative impacts fall disproportionately on youth of color and their families.

In support of a holistic children's agenda, 11 Ohio child-serving organizations have worked together to create child-focused recommendations for Governor-elect Mike DeWine and his new administration to consider in their first biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 (FY20-21). We applaud the DeWine Team for its early focus on children, including publishing their Children's Agenda with many positive recommendations and the appointment of a Director of Children's Initiatives. The Ohio Children's Budget recommendations are aligned with the DeWine agenda and elevate issues to help children thrive across our great state. They represent effective investments of taxpayer dollars.

## Overview: FY20-21 Ohio Children's Budget

Overall, we believe that the DeWine Administration must:

- Consider childhood as a continuum spanning prenatal through age 18 and acknowledge that adolescent development continues through the early 20s, with many youth in need of additional support to successfully transition to adulthood.
- Maximize outcomes for Ohio's children by eliminating silos and building a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of services and programs to address issues beyond the artificial boundaries of agencies and funding streams.

<sup>1</sup> 2018 Kids Count National Report on Child Well-being, Annie E. Casey Foundation, [cdfohio.org](http://cdfohio.org), Accessed 2018.

<sup>2</sup> America's Health Rankings analysis of Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, National Survey of Children's Health, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, United Health Foundation, [AmericasHealthRankings.org](http://AmericasHealthRankings.org), Accessed 2018.



- Ensure all investments in Ohio’s children are in data- and research-driven best practice approaches, programs, and services that maximize benefits for children and families and represent an effective use of taxpayer investments.
- Go beyond “reporting out,” and take a transformational approach to create a comprehensive continuum of care for all children focused on improving child outcomes.

## Specific Recommendations: Ohio Children’s Budget

We know what Ohio’s children need to thrive. Programs exist that support economic security for families, changing children’s lives for the better and increasing educational outcomes and lifetime earnings. However, we as adults must look at children and families holistically, not just in pieces and parts and must be willing to invest in their success.

The Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition has prepared a series of issue briefs across several domains listed below. Each brief will examine the current statistics and approaches, evidence-based and promising practices, and policy recommendations to improve efficiency and positive outcomes for children and their families.

- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Medicaid and CHIP Primer
- Child Nutrition in Ohio’s Appalachian Region
- Students Facing Economic Disadvantage
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Children Services Reform & Kinship Care
- Children Exposed to Lead
- 2020 Census and the Child Undercount
- Youth Prisons
- School Safety Programs & Funding
- Quality Child Care & Preschool
- Evidence-Based Home Visiting
- Education Equity

We look forward to working with the DeWine Administration on these and other children’s issues during the transition and as the FY20-21 executive budget is developed and considered.

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