



Prioritizing Children’s Services and Juvenile Justice in Ohio’s Budget

Issues	Opportunities in Ohio’s 2022-2023 State Budget
<p>Youth Incarceration</p> <p>Contact: Juvenile Justice Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on upstream investment in systems and programs that particularly reach low-income children and families who are criminalized and under-invested in (disproportionately Black Ohioans). • Reduce reliance on youth confinement and use the savings to expand alternative programs, such as positive efforts within DYS’s Targeted RECLAIM, Competitive RECLAIM, and Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice initiative, as well as adapt and adopt effective national models. • Alternatives to incarceration must be accompanied by robust data collection, evaluation, and oversight to ensure state dollars are being spent effectively.
<p>Children’s Services Stabilization & Transformation</p> <p>Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the children services investments Ohio made in the last biennium: State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) at \$110M per year, Best Practices at \$10M per year, Foster Care Recruitment and Support at \$5M per year, Multi-System Youth at \$25M per year, Kinship Caregiver Program at \$15M per year (from TANF), and Ohio START at \$10M per year. • Stabilize the children services workforce. Maintain and grow the Children Services Stabilization Fund and Rapid Response Team. Launch a public information campaign, and provide tuition assistance, loan repayment and housing assistance to recruit and retain staff. • Strengthen and expand support for kinship caregivers. Provide them with financial and childcare assistance. Reduce legal barriers that prevent some caregivers from enrolling children in school and accessing medical coverage and care. • Expand policies and best practices for identifying kin caregivers early and throughout a family’s involvement with children services.
<p>Family First Prevention Services Act</p> <p>Contact: Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and Ohio Children’s Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize state investments in prevention services. If implemented with adequate resources, the federal Family First Prevention Services Act will allow more children in Ohio to remain in their home with wraparound supports. • Allocate state resources for the ongoing match, as well as the development and evaluation of evidence-based interventions in public and private agencies. Federal funds will pay for up to half the cost of prevention services, but some county children services agencies are concerned about having funding available to pay the local match for those services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue funding Ohio START, an intervention model that helps families struggling with both substance abuse and child maltreatment, at \$10M per year. Ohio START is one of the five Family First Prevention Services selected by Ohio, and it will continue to expand to additional counties.• Provide support for increasing placement costs as Ohio implements new residential placement requirements. Placement costs can be expected to decline over time as Family First implementation matures, but costs may rise during the startup period.• Provide ongoing training and technical assistance to public and private child-serving agencies to achieve successful implementation of Family First.
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