



2020-2021 Policy Progress Scorecard: How did Ohio Children Fare in the State Budget?

Issue	Recommendations	Enacted in HB 166	Administrative Change: Policy/Rules	Description
Multi-System Youth (MSY)	Increased investments in Multi-System Youth	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$18 million was invested in Multi-System Youth innovation to be used for custody relinquishment prevention, programs that serve youth involved in multiple government agencies, and in innovative programs promoting access to health care that help achieve long-term cost savings to the state. • \$4 million in the budget will be used to provide individualized services and supports to children with multi-system needs and their families.
	Greater focus on coordination of systems through policy, workgroups, etc.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The \$18 million allocated for multi-system youth is housed in the Medicaid budget, and it is not certain yet what vehicle will be used to allocate the money. However, it is possible that Ohio Family and Children First will be used as the vehicle for the allocation of funds from a dedicated and flexible pool of dollars.
	New GRF dollars requested in a separate crisis intervention fund.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These funds are separate from the \$55 million dollars in the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services budget for Child Protective Services to offset the placement costs of youth currently in out of home placement. The budget includes an \$18 million multi-system youth custody relinquishment fund.
	Develop a multi-system youth action plan that includes implementation of the other recommendations of the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget calls on the Ohio Family and Children First Council to develop and present a multi-system youth action plan to cease custody relinquishment for the sole purpose of gaining access to child specific services for multi-system children and youth to the General Assembly by December 31. • This is a culmination of work the legislature started in 2016, when the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth issued recommendations designed to stop forced custody relinquishment.



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Youth Prison	<p>Ohio spends \$100M per year to keep 500 children in youth prisons; Community-based approaches are more cost-effective and have better outcomes for the youth. Ohio must provide enough support to address the underlying causes of juvenile court involvement and to expand the community-based model.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding levels are maintained for most community-based programs, with increased funding for Competitive RECLAIM by \$1.1 million in each fiscal year of the biennium, for a total of \$2.2 million to help support juvenile diversion efforts. • Youth Services Grant funding was restored to its previous levels, increasing funding by \$417,567 in each year of the biennium to meet the needs of justice-involved youth who may have a history of complex issues such as mental health, substance abuse, trauma, and family stability. • The budget includes correctional reinvestment language that allows the Department of Youth Services to use up to \$1.3 million from correctional savings in each fiscal year to expand Targeted RECLAIM, the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative, and other evidence-based community programs. • An increase of \$141,000 towards vocational training will utilize community partnerships to help support better reentry for justice system-involved youth.
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	<p>Ohio's EITC is at 10%, which is well below the national average of 27%. Ohio must improve the EITC with refundability, increase to 20% of federal credit and remove the income cap.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019 Transportation budget (HB 62) removed the income cap and expanded the credit to 30 percent of the federal credit. However, the credit is still nonrefundable and the improvements will only help an additional 1% of the poorest Ohioans. • Adding a 10% refundable earned income tax credit to the current credit would reward work, reduce tax liability, help financially vulnerable families, and boost local economies. Our policy makers must continue working together to ensure working families can build assets and become more economically secure.



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Family Paid Leave	Ohio must put children first by establishing paid family leave.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although this policy was not included in Ohio's budget, it did receive a hearing in the House during the budget process for the first time.
Child Mental Health Services	Child Mental Health Services	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$675 million is dedicated in the K-12 education budget across the biennium for wrap-around services for students, which include mental health counseling, mentoring, after school programs, and more. An investment of \$12 million is used to expand the Ohio Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma Program (or OhioSTART) as part of Continuum of Care Services for children whose parents have had substance abuse issues and experienced trauma. The Department of Youth Services saw an increase in funds towards girls' mental health treatment which will receive an additional \$450,000. Early Childhood Mental Health Counselors and Consultation maintained funding to be used to promote identification and intervention for early childhood mental health and to enhance health social emotional development in order to reduce preschool to third grade classroom expulsions.
Wraparound (Integrated) Services in Schools	Children need access to supplemental programs at school that address their entire well-being.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As stated previously, the new biennium budget invests new funding in investments for Student Wellness and Success to provide wraparound services in K-12 schools. These funds will be dedicated to school districts based on federal poverty measures. Over the next two years, the state has budgeted \$675 million for this provision to be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health services; Homelessness resources; Child-welfare involved youth services; Community liaisons; Physical health care services; Mentoring programs;



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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family engagement and support; • City connects programming; • Professional development for trauma-informed care and cultural competence; and • Student services provided prior to or after the regularly scheduled school day or any time school is not in session.
Resources for Economic Disadvantaged Students	<p>Ohio should re-examine per pupil funding specifically for economically disadvantaged students to ensure funding appropriately addresses needs.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governor’s Student Wellness and Success Fund (SWSF) for K-12 education, providing wraparound services in K-12 schools, will be distributed directly to school districts, JVSD, and community schools based on the number of students they educate and the district’s Federal Poverty Level. • The budget requires the Ohio Department of Education to conduct an Economically Disadvantaged Student study that determines the effectiveness of criteria used in the current school funding formula to define economically disadvantaged students and researches best practices of other states in this definition. • School Climate Grants will be used to implement positive behavior intervention and supports frameworks as well as evidence- or research-based social and emotional learning initiatives. These grants will be awarded with the first priority going to applicants whose buildings serve higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students. • The Ohio Department of Education will use leftover federal block grant funds to pay for Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams for low-income students.



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Reduce Food Insecurity for At-Risk Children in Ohio	<p>Include funding to support advocacy work with school districts to implement alternative breakfast models that increase breakfast participation to national goal of 70%. Ohio currently ranks 27th nationally in the school breakfast program.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional \$60 million in federal funds will be used to improve the nutrition of Ohio's children (and adults) via expansion of Ohio's Federal School Lunch, Federal School Breakfast, and Child and Adult Food Programs. • The Ohio Department of Education will establish a program under which higher-poverty public schools must offer breakfast to all enrolled students during the school day or before school starts. • Although language to increase school breakfast participation to 70% in schools was in the Executive budget, it is no longer in the final budget. • The final biennium budget permits a school district to choose not to establish a school breakfast program for financial reasons or if it already has a successful breakfast program in place.
	<p>Include funding to support sponsorship of over 275 afterschool sites to reach 30,000 children serving 900,000 meals and snacks. Ohio currently ranks 48th nationally in afterschool nutrition programs.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,175,000 annually from the TANF Block Grant will go towards the Children's Hunger Alliance to support these programs.



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	<p>Include funding to support sponsorship of approximately 700 in-home providers and 30 childcare centers to serve approximately 15,000 children healthy food. Additionally support providers in application of Step Up To Quality rating.</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,175,000 annually from the TANF Block Grant will go towards the Children's Hunger Alliance to support these programs.
	<p>Expand summer meal program options in Ohio rural areas and request from USDA a non-congregate feeding exception that waives the stipulation that children must travel to a central location and eat their meals together. Ohio currently ranks 37th nationally in the summer meal program.</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ohio Association of Food Banks received funding to purchase and distribute food products, support Innovative Summer Meals programs for children, provide SNAP outreach and free tax filing services, and provide capacity building equipment for food pantries and soup kitchens.
High Quality Early Care	<p>Only 38% of low-income children attend publicly funded child</p>	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts to meet Step Up to Quality mandates were supported with a new \$10 million investment in Quality Infrastructure Grants in fiscal year 2020.



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	<p>care or preschool and, of those children enrolled, far too few are accessing quality programs.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investment of \$2 million was included over the biennium for the Early Learning Pilot Program, aiming to increase quality child care and early learning in rural communities. • The Ohio Governor’s “Imagination Library” was created and funded \$5 million in the first year of the biennium to improve early literacy. • A non-discrimination requirement prohibiting daycare providers, day camps, and their employees to discriminate based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin and disability. • A “hold harmless” was included to ensure that no child care provider experienced a rate cut when reimbursement rates were updated.
	<p>Ohio must prioritize early child education by increasing funding and public child care eligibility for families living at 200% FPL</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing eligibility for publicly funded child care remains a stated priority for the Administration, but no funds were allocated to support expanded eligibility in the FY 20-21 operating budget.
	<p>Partial property tax exemption for child care centers</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care centers licensed by Ohio Jobs and Family Services serving children from households that receive public assistance will now receive a partial property tax reduction.



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Evidence-Based Home Visiting	Ohio must invest more in making EBHVP more accessible for at-risk children and their parents.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with Gov. DeWine’s efforts to triple home visiting in the state, the budget invests \$69.6 million in Help Me Grow over the next two years (an increase of \$29.3 million over the biennium). This investment will increase home visiting services for at-risk, expectant mothers to reduce infant mortality. Infant Mortality Health Grants saw an increase in state dollars to \$6 million over the biennium. A \$10 million investment in 2020 to Infant Vitality will be used to identify women early in their pregnancies to link them to services allowing for healthier deliveries. Tobacco use prevention and cessation was emphasized with increased investments in programs such as Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program and the Moms Quit for Two Grant Program. The budget bill authorizes local boards of health to establish fetal-infant mortality review boards to review fetal and infant deaths within the board's jurisdiction.
	Office of Minority Health: Hub model investments	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways Community HUB Infant Mortality Health Grants were funded \$2.6 million in each fiscal year for up to ten community-based agencies to support the continuation or establishment of a pathways community HUB model that aims to reduce infant mortality in urban and rural communities with a targeted focus on reducing disparities.
	Maternal Health Data: Make this data available and at greater levels of frequency.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board (PAMR) was established within the Ohio Department of Health. This board was created with the purpose of reducing the incidence of those deaths. It will release more frequent reports on its findings – every two years instead of every three –but this data will not be public record.
CHIP/ Medic aid Primer	125,000 Ohio children remain uninsured and that number is steadily increasing. Outreach to		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No language is included in the budget to promote outreach to identify uninsured Medicaid-eligible children; yet, there are also no overt threats to expansion or eligibility.



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	identify uninsured Medicaid-eligible children.			
	Ohio must allocate funding for outreach to identify uninsured Medicaid-eligible children.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Medicaid will receive the needed \$200 million in funding over the biennium to maintain coverage of children currently enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program.
Children Exposed to Lead	Ohio must invest more money to test and treat low-income children for lead, and to remediate properties with high levels of lead.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ohio sees increased investment in lead abatement strategies in this biennium to: make Ohio homes lead-safe, offer a \$10,000 lead abatement tax credit (up to \$5 million each fiscal year), demolish lead-blighted homes, and increase the number of lead hazard control workers. Civil action measures by ODH are included for enforcing lead hazard orders where properties are residential units, child-care facilities and/or schools. The Lead Safe Home Fund Pilot receives \$1 million per fiscal year of GRF-funding to support lead abatement efforts and prevent lead poisoning. Part C Early Intervention saw an additional investment of \$1.5 million, which includes support for automatic eligibility for children who have tested positive for lead and babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). The Department of Developmental Disabilities adopted a new rule on Early Intervention (EI) eligibility where an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) of a certain amount makes a child automatically eligible for EI services.



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Children Services Reform	Ohio must increase its state investment in children services and preserve its federal funding streams.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohio’s investment in children’s services was doubled this biennium. • At least \$125 million of this investment will be used to support county public children services agencies (PCSAs). • \$25.0 million per year will be used to prevent youth from entering custody of a PCSA and to provide support services from multiple systems. • An investment of \$8.5 million per year will support the Kinship Care Navigator Program in Ohio. • The budget incorporates more flexibility in who can serve as kinship caregiver – providing a nonrelative adult has a healthy, longstanding relationship with a child. • The final budget also establishes foster caregivers as mandatory reporters of abuse and neglect. • The Kinship Caregiver Program is earmarked \$15 million in each fiscal year from federal Title IV-E to support PCSAs in providing reasonable and necessary relief of child caring functions so kinship caregivers can provide and maintain a home for a child. • The budget also provides \$2.5 million per year to fund services to reduce homelessness in youth and pregnant women.
School Safety & Funding	Ohio must invest more in research-based social-emotional interventions that detect and prevent incidents before they occur.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Safety Training Grants are dedicated \$24 million for school safety and school climate programs and training to public and chartered nonpublic schools, local law enforcement agencies, and schools operated by county boards of developmental disabilities. • This investment will contribute towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School resource officer certification training; • Any type of active shooter and school safety training or equipment; • All grade level type educational resources; • Training to identify and assist students with mental health issues; • School supplies or equipment related to school safety or for implementing the school's safety plan; and • Any other training related to school safety.



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2020 Census and the Child Undercount	Ohio must appropriate funding in the state budget to ensure census outreach efforts and prevent the undercount of children			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final budget did not include funding to ensure census outreach efforts for hard-to-count communities and undercount prevention.
	Governor DeWine must issue an executive order creating the Ohio Complete Count Commission	✓		Gov. DeWine issued an Executive Order on April 15, 2019.