

\*\*\*For Immediate Release \*\*\*

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## Policy Recommendations Released by Ohio Children's Budget Coalition Establish Benchmark for Budget Priorities for Children and Families in Next Biennium

Five new policy briefs were released by the <u>Ohio Children's Budget Coalition (OCBC)</u> today, building on a dozen others released over the last month outlining specific budgetary recommendations for the DeWine Administration and state leaders to ensure funding decisions meet the needs of Ohio children and families during the pandemic and beyond.

The Ohio Children's Budget Coalition (OCBC), a partnership comprised of 19 leading child advocacy organizations across the state, was established in 2018 during the last biennium budget cycle to advocate for the holistic needs of children in Ohio's state policy and budget decisions.

Taking an optimistic approach to <u>revenue forecasts</u> for Ohio's budget, the coalition is committed to protecting investments made previously for children and also to amplifying critical areas where needs remained unmet for children in the last budget.

"The state budget is a prime opportunity to maximize investments in essential programs that Ohio children and families need, especially right now, when U.S. Census Household Pulse data tells us families are really struggling to make ends meet," says Tracy Nájera, executive director of the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio. "Bottom line – if lawmakers decide to flat-fund essential programs in the budget using the reduced 2020 budget as a baseline, then they have ultimately decided to cut these essential services and programs when Ohioans need them most."

The coalition has now released 17 policy briefs in total outlining their recommendations for the 2022-2023 budget. Their newest policy briefs released today include:

- Issue: Youth Incarceration, authored by the <u>Juvenile Justice Coalition</u>
- Issue: Evidence-Based Home Visiting, authored by Groundwork Ohio
- Issue: Children's Services Stabilization and Transformation, authored by <u>Public Children Services</u> <u>Association of Ohio (PCSAO)</u>
- Issue: Post-partum Supports, authored by Groundwork Ohio



For more information and access to all 17 of the coalition's policy briefs, please visit <u>www.ohiochildrensbudget.org</u>.

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<u>Ohio Children's Budget Coalition</u> (OCBC) was established in 2018 and is committed to prioritizing the needs of children in Ohio's state policy and budget decisions. This unprecedented statewide partnership is comprised of over 18 organizations, listed on the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition Website.

