



Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition (OCBC) Budget & Policy Recommendations for the Whole Child:
*Children’s Health, Early Childhood and Educational Opportunities, Economic Stability, Children’s Services
 and Juvenile Justice*

Children’s Health

Issues	Opportunities in Ohio’s 2022-2023 State Budget
<p>Telehealth and Mental Health</p> <p>Contact: Ohio Children’s Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create legislature-led stakeholder group to create a Mental Health Workforce Development Plan by October 2022. The plan would include plans to increase the number of qualified mental health professionals across the continuum, robust training and education, and improve workforce retention. • Establish one-time \$20M dollar grant to spur innovation in community behavioral health to be used for software and hardware infrastructure, internet connectivity, technology resources for families, and training. • Increase state investment in Broadband development and expansion.
<p>Infant and Maternal Health, Extending Medicaid Postpartum Coverage, and Voluntary Evidence-Based Home Visiting</p> <p>Contacts: Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio and Groundwork Ohio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and expand investment in extended postpartum coverage and pursue CMS approval of a Section 1115 waiver for continuous 12-month Medicaid eligibility for postpartum women with substance abuse disorders. Expand the scope and investment of the waiver to include 12-month continuous care for pregnant women with high risk pregnancies, chronic conditions, and mental health diagnoses. • Take steps to expand Medicaid coverage of Doula services in Ohio. • Preserve the annual state investment of \$39.3M for evidence-based home visiting through the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow Program. • Expand evidence-based home visiting services to serve more eligible families by increasing the state investment in the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow program and make it an opt out program that is offered automatically to all families with a mental health diagnosis, previous contact with the child welfare system, or previous infant mortality. • Continue supporting Ohio’s Infant Mortality Collaboratives throughout the state at existing funding levels. • Expand antiracism training, evaluation, and accountability measures in healthcare. • Ensure every pregnant person has access to the technology needed to safely access health care visits.
<p>Child Lead Poisoning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden the reach and impact of the SCHIP HSI Lead Hazard Control Program by doubling the total dollars (\$20M over the biennium) and require that at least 50% of the funding support the Phase 2 primary prevention track which targets pre-1978 dwellings prior to a child having an EBLL.

<p>Contact: Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift oversight authority for the RRP rule from the federal level to the state by designating ODH authority to enforce the program, with one-time cost of \$1.3 million. • Sustain innovation and public-private partnership through local lead prevention efforts, including Cleveland’s Lead Safe Home Fund and Toledo’s program (\$2.3 million in GRF). • Create dedicated GRF funding for ODH’s Ohio Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund (\$4M). Most of the funding available for primary prevention is dependent on federal appropriations with guidelines set by the federal government. This fund, created in state law in 2003, would allow Ohio to set its own priorities for primary prevention and could be an avenue to foster public-private funding partnerships throughout the state. • Allocate one third of H2Ohio funding to the Ohio EPA for clean, safe drinking water and approximately \$15M to local governments and public utilities for lead-safe and affordable water for Ohioans.
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Early Childhood and Educational Opportunities

Issues	Opportunities in Ohio’s 2022-2023 State Budget
<p>K-12 School Funding Opportunity</p> <p>Contact: Ohio Education Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfill the promises in H.B. 305/S.B.376 to move the state towards an additional \$1.99B in state aid for public education over the next 6 years. • Fund privatization options with direct state funding rather than through deductions from school districts. • Create a Permanent School Fund for long-term funding stability. • Invest real authority in an independent school funding commission that will ensure evidence-based future changes to the funding model base. • Invest in best remote learning practices to handle any COVID-19 issues. • Fund studies to improve funding for students in poverty, who have special needs, whose second language is English and other funding categories to ensure all students receive the world-class educations they deserve.
<p>Expand Access to High Quality Child Care</p> <p>Contacts: Groundwork Ohio and Policy Matters Ohio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect all current levels of state and federal investments in PFCC and increase state investment in the program to support the increased cost of operations during COVID-19, recover lost capacity due to COVID-19 and ensure the system has sustainable funding mechanisms. • Expand initial eligibility for publicly funded child care from 130% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 200% FPL to help parents afford child care and ensure more at risk children have access to high-quality care. • Support all providers serving children in publicly funded child care in achieving 3-stars by 2025 in Ohio’s Step Up to Quality rating and improvement system. This includes supporting a highly skilled and fairly compensated early childhood workforce. • Evaluate programs from an equity lens and utilize data to make targeted investments that eliminate barriers to access and the impacts of COVID-19 based on race, rural geography and age of the child.
<p>EdChoice School Vouchers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass HB 305, or SB 376, to create a fair school funding plan.

<p>Contact: Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End deductions for all voucher programs by creating a separate line-item for vouchers. • Continue funding wraparound services to help students address the non-academic needs of dealing with pandemic and other adverse childhood trauma experiences. • Focus on making public schools that educate 9 of 10 Ohio children, the first schools of choice.
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Economic Stability

Issues	Opportunities in Ohio’s 2022-2023 State Budget
<p>Paid Family & Medical Leave</p> <p>Contact: Ohio Women’s Public Policy Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a statewide paid family and medical leave program that: includes comprehensive coverage for leave; covers all employers; provides adequate wage replacement; adopts an inclusive definition of an individual who is covered by caregiving leave; provides leave time of at least 12-weeks; and guarantees job-protection, anti-retaliation, and anti-discrimination protections.
<p>Ending Homelessness for Children and Families</p> <p>Contact: COHHIO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25M annual TANF allocation to Housing Now for Homeless Families. • Build on the \$5M for ODH program for homeless youth and pregnant women. • Invest \$3M to extend and expand Healthy Beginnings at Home pilot by adding communities with high rates of infant mortality. • Expand the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.
<p>Bridging Ohio’s Digital Divide</p> <p>Contacts: Buckeye Hills Regional Council and Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Ohio’s HB 13 or as introduced SB 8/similar legislation. • Support a comprehensive and regional approach to creating a statewide Broadband infrastructure. • Create internet utility programs to address affordability issues. • Continue Investments to Provide Short-term Broadband Connectivity and Device Grants Program.
<p>Expand Summer Food Access for Children</p> <p>Contact: Children’s Hunger Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize SFSP/SSO through the permanent adoption of non-congregate food service to bring additional federal dollars to Ohio to support schools, faith-based, and non-profit partners operating summer food service. • Work with Ohio’s Congressional delegation to ensure support of making permanent critical USDA flexibilities that have been vital to states during the pandemic and to expand the USDA Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (S-EBT) to all states to complement SFSP and SSO and further reduce childhood food insecurity
<p>Strengthen Ohio’s Earned Income Tax Credit</p> <p>Contact: Policy Matters Ohio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a 10% refundable option to the current state EITC policy to benefit 758,800 Ohio families and target the states’ poorest workers.

Children’s Services and Juvenile Justice

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. • Accompany alternatives to incarceration with 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. • 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.