



OHIO CHILDREN'S BUDGET

2022-2023

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Ohio Children's Budget Coalition Reunites to Maintain, Protect and Strengthen Investments for Ohio Children in the Upcoming 2022-2023 State Budget

Leading child advocacy organizations band together to increase public support for Ohio's children.

COLUMBUS — In the last biennium budget, state policymakers increased public funding to protect the youngest Ohioans and expand opportunities for children of all races and backgrounds. In the middle of a pandemic and recession, that support hangs in the balance. Now, the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition is ramping up efforts to maintain, protect, and strengthen the public resources dedicated to ensuring the well-being of our children in the upcoming biennial budget. To support the potential of each child, they must be cared for, healthy, educated, fed, and nurtured. Unfortunately, this is not the reality for too many of Ohio's children.

Recognizing that the future of Ohio's children rests, in large part, on the decisions that Ohio's adults make on their behalf, the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition (OCBC), a partnership comprised of 18 organizations across the state committed to the health and well-being of children, was established to advocate for the needs of the "whole child" in Ohio's state policy and budget decisions.

"Our budget is a moral document that is a reflection of our priorities as a state," said Tracy Nájera, executive director of Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, one member organization of the coalition. "Let's make sure we do right by the children and Ohio in the next budget cycle."

Through its collective vision of what childhood in Ohio should look like, the OCBC successfully [advocated for policymakers to increase public support in seven of 11 issue areas](#) prioritized in its children's agenda, including evidence-based home visiting, child lead exposure, and wrap-around support in schools. The statewide coalition aims to build on these successes in the upcoming FY 2022-2023 budget.



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"We must all work together to build a better future for Ohio's children. The pandemic has really highlighted the necessity of a safe, decent place to live. With targeted resources and political will we can deliver life-changing outcomes for children who don't have a stable home," said Bill Faith, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, a member of the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition. "All of these recommendations really compliment the governor's vision to uplift the next generation of Ohioans."

OCBC will release a children's policy agenda and accompanying issue briefs in the coming month. The briefs will make specific policy and funding recommendations to inform decision-making, promote racial equity, and take on the considerable challenges of COVID-19 with evidence-based, effective strategies. The coalition is resolutely committed to securing the progress made in protecting the wellbeing of Ohio's children while amplifying critical areas where needs remain unmet.

"All children in Ohio deserve to live in safe comfortable homes with enough food in the fridge. They all deserve a bright future," said Hannah Halbert, Executive Director of Policy Matters Ohio, a member of OCBC. "But today, longstanding structural barriers and public policy choices keep too many Black and brown children and children whose families struggle to make ends meet, from following their dreams. Our state leaders must use Ohio's public resources to put our children's future first."

The 18 member organizations of the coalition understand that their collaboration is essential in helping Ohio move beyond a deficit mindset in the state budget process when it comes to child wellbeing.

"Our advocacy is about making sure the needs of Ohio's children are met as we focus on overall child wellbeing," said Tracy Nájera. "Children cannot succeed if they have food but no housing, and vice versa. We understand that children do not come in pieces and neither should the policies and investments that crucially provide for their holistic wellbeing and empower them to grow and thrive into successful adulthood."

For more information, please visit www.ohiochildrensbudget.org.

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[Ohio Children's Budget Coalition](http://www.ohiochildrensbudget.org) (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.