

***For Immediate Release ***

January 26, 2023

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Ohio Children's Budget Coalition Issues Recommendations to Maintain, Protect, and Enhance Investments for Ohio Children in the Upcoming 2024-2025 State Budget

Leading child advocacy organizations release child-centered agenda to improve the wellbeing of children and families

COLUMBUS —Today, the [Ohio Children's Budget Coalition](#) released [Creating a Vision of Child Well-Being For Ohio](#), a child-centered agenda of policy priorities and issue briefs with specific recommendations to maintain, protect, and enhance investments in child well-being in the upcoming 2024-2025 biennial state budget.

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 of leading child advocacy organizations across the state, was established in 2018 to advocate for the needs of children in Ohio's state policy and budget decisions.

"The budget is a moral document that reflects our state's priorities," said Matthew Tippit, Policy Associate at the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio and co-leader of the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition, one member organization of the coalition. "Let's make sure we do right by the children of Ohio in this budget."

The coalition is resolutely committed to protecting investments made previously for children and to amplifying critical areas where needs remain unmet. The fifteen new issue briefs outline crucial policy and funding opportunities to improve child health, early childhood and education, economic stability, children services, and more that coalition members are calling on Ohio's leaders to prioritize in their budgetary decisions this year.

Through its collective vision of what childhood in Ohio should look like, the OCBC successfully advocated for new investments that were prioritized in its children's agenda in the last biennium, including increased funding for evidence-based home visiting, child lead poisoning prevention, increased access to publicly funded child care, and adoption of the Fair School Funding Plan. The statewide coalition aims to build on these successes in the upcoming 2024-2025 budget.

The 22 member organizations understand that their collaboration is essential in helping Ohio to build a narrative that goes beyond a deficit mindset in the state budget process.

“Our advocacy is about making the pot bigger for children, not taking from one child program and giving to another or fighting over a tiny slice of pie,” says Katherine Ungar, Senior Policy Associate with the Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio, “Children do not come in pieces, and neither should the policies and investments that crucially provide and pave the way for them to grow and flourish into successful adulthood.”

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

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[Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition](#) (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 fifteen child advocacy organizations, including:

- *Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio*
- *Groundwork Ohio*
- *Ohio Children’s Alliance*
- *Children’s Hunger Alliance*
- *Ohio Education Association (OEA)*
- *Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)*
- *Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition*
- *Juvenile Justice Coalition*
- *Policy Matters Ohio*
- *Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)*
- *The Ohio Association of Foodbanks*
- *Buckeye Hills Regional Council*
- *The Ohio Women’s Public Policy Network*
- *Coalition on Housing & Homelessness in Ohio (COHHIO)*
- *Council for a Strong America*
- *OCALI*
- *Appalachian Children Coalition*
- *Ohio Head State Association, Inc.*
- *Ohio Poverty Law Center*
- *Philanthropy Ohio*
- *Advocates for Ohio’s Future*
- *The Center for Community Solutions*