SPRING 2023 UPDATE

FUNDING OUR FUTURE
From childcare providers to students, formerly incarcerated folks to faith leaders, OOC leaders joined together in May to push for a state budget that cares for all of us.

More than 100 grassroots members from across the OOC membership bases gathered in Columbus for a Lobby Day. Leaders taught each other about their priorities within our policy platform, got trained on legislative visits and met with legislators to advocate for fully-funded early childhood education and public schools, funding our communities instead of the prison-industrial complex, and other priorities in the biennium state budget. More than half of participants visited the Ohio Statehouse for the first time.
All In For Ohio Kids (AOK) Parent Organizing and Student Lobby Day

Ohio has more than enough resources to make sure every child attends a world-class public school.

Parents and high school students provided testimony, lobbied our legislators and took action at the Statehouse calling on our lawmakers to fully and fairly fund public schools by implementing the Fair School Funding Plan in the 2023-2025 budget cycle.

AOK Digital Organizing Campaign

Our layered digital ad campaign urging more parents to support the Fair School Funding Plan this budget cycle has resulted in nearly 1,000 leads coming from Ohio parents and supporters of fairly and fully funded public schools. Our organizers are also running a successful text messaging campaign to stay in touch with parents and supporters.

In addition to innovative digital organizing strategies, our IG video went viral on All In For Ohio – a Gen Z student-centered video on the need to fund Ohio public schools that resulted in nearly a million views and over 105k likes. The video was a successful collaboration with Columbus high school students who were getting trained in the Fair School Funding Plan. We also held a 2-day Race Class Narrative training for Ohio Education Association management to instill the importance of narrative in union organizing and political advocacy.

AOK ORGANIZING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

- 10 Parent Core Team Members
- 115 parent leaders trained in FSFP
- 226 attended Lunch & Learns
- 40 students at lobby day
- 2,409 new digital action takers in 2023
- 1930 CCS Parents / Caregivers
- 97 bussing campaign
- 268 from website
- 211 other statewide outreach
Columbus parents call for re-evaluation of city schools funding formula

by Natalie Feherty
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COLUMBUS, Ohio (WCMH) — Some Columbus City School parents say the way here and across the state needs to be re-evaluated.

More than two decades ago, Ohio’s school funding formula, which was based on property tax revenues, was ruled unconstitutional in DeShan v. State, but since then, the funding formula has not been adequately re-evaluated.

Parents and educators argue that the current funding system is failing to provide the necessary resources for students to succeed. They have called for a re-evaluation of the funding formula to ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, have access to quality education.

They have organized a petition and are calling on state legislators to take action. The petition can be found on the Ohio PTA website.

Parents are urging others to sign the petition and join the fight for better funding for Ohio’s public schools. They believe that a fully funded education system is essential for the future of the state.

Join the fight for a fully funded future for Ohio’s public schools!
The CEO Project Lobby Day & National Day Without Childcare

Child care is essential work in Ohio. Dozens of childcare providers from Youngstown, Cincy, Columbus, and Dayton joined together in Columbus to share their stories with the head of Jobs and Family Services and legislators to push for fully funded early childhood education in Ohio.

On the national Day Without Childcare, CEO child care leaders closed their centers for a day and urged our legislators to fund child care at local, state, and federal levels. At our press conference, leaders released a memo to Intel urging them to fund Ohio’s child care infrastructure and support Ohio’s workforce as they build the new multibillion dollar chip plant in central Ohio. The memo outlines how Intel and the state of Ohio can effectively partner with grassroots organizations like The CEO Project and OOC to gain a competitive advantage.

Child care leaders shared their stories with the media garnering 15 articles and op-eds that substantively featured our leaders’ stories and perspectives.
Black, white, or brown, Building Freedom Ohio (BFO) is fighting everyday to build an Ohio where all of us can be free and live with dignity, no matter our race or legal status.

In February, BFO brought together more than 150 leaders from Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Youngstown who are directly impacted by the criminal legal system to share their stories, build power, and develop skills to organize their communities. The powerful 2-day training was led almost entirely by member-leaders.

Formerly incarcerated Ohioans have the power to create humane and sensible policies that will help them rebuild their lives without the burden of collateral sanctions. This spring, BFO also hosted a Policy Summit which involved leaders from across the state sharing stories and educating policymakers and advocates on the impact of collateral sanctions on their lives. The goal was to develop new innovative solutions to reduce & eliminate the barriers of collateral sanctions, and create real pathways for full reintegration into civic life.

BFO is working towards a better future for our directly impacted community in Ohio. They’re building the leadership of formerly incarcerated Ohioans and directly impacted individuals so they can better advocate for themselves and their families.

“We’re organizing people, we’re organizing money, and most importantly, we’re organizing action.”
- Cleveland BFO member Ronald Crosby
The AMOS Project collected hundreds of surveys from Black churches and congregants to refine its 2023-2024 agenda. In Dayton, Amos trained clergy and lay leaders on the principles of power, social justice and how to build justice ministries at our first Justice Revival.

AMOS organizers launched an organizing program on Black maternal and women’s health issues with a women’s roundtable event this May. The conversation provided data and discussion on the state of Black women’s health in Ohio, and provided concrete ways to take action to improve health outcomes for Black women and families.

Protecting voting rights in Ohio is central to the justice work of Black churches in Ohio, who have been organizing to protect our rights and freedoms at the ballot box by fighting to stop strict voter ID laws and defeating the attack on direct democracy.

Ohio students understand that real intellectual diversity means having all kinds of students represented in our classrooms – no matter their race or income – and being able to talk about diverse and challenging topics honestly.

Student leaders fought back when the state Senate passed a major attack on academic freedom, workers’ rights, and DEI programs through bills SB83 and HB151. They gave testimony, organized rallies on campuses across the state, and held a powerful direct action at the Statehouse, standing in the Statehouse Rotunda with their mouths taped shut to represent the silencing of academic freedom in Ohio.

Student leaders are fighting back against the attacks on abortion rights, collecting signatures on campuses across Ohio to put an amendment on the ballot to enshrine reproductive freedom in Ohio’s constitution.

OSA leaders have collected hundreds of surveys from Black students on college campuses across Ohio to produce a Black student equity report and policy blueprint.
Since the start of the year, OOC has been a key part of building the coalition of more than 250 organizations to stop attacks on direct democracy in Ohio. This attempt to raise the threshold for ballot initiatives to 60% and increase signature requirements is a thinly-veiled attempt to prevent popular measures heading for the ballot in Ohio – from raising wages, protecting abortion rights, and strengthening our democracy.

Our collective efforts mobilized hundreds of Ohioans across race, place, gender, and background to fight back against these bills during the legislative process. Now we serve on the Executive Committee for the One Person One Vote campaign to continue mobilizing and activating this energy to make sure we defeat the ballot initiative in the special election on August 8.

This August, Ohioans have the power to stop Issue 1, an undemocratic, unpopular, and unconstitutional amendment that will allow minority rule to prevail in Ohio if it passes. WE decide our future — not special interests and corrupt politicians.
» Vanity Fair | “They're Afraid of the Majority”: Republicans Are Pushing a Quiet Assault on Direct Democracy
» Columbus Dispatch | Ohio’s inequitable child care system is built on underpaid Black women. (op-ed)
» NBC4 | Advocates make diverse requests for Ohio budget
» Cleveland News 5 | Organization highlights the importance of childcare with National Day Without Childcare
» Cleveland Scene | Ohio Takes Part in National Day Without Childcare
» Ohio Capital Journal | Ohio takes part in National Day Without Childcare
» NBC4 | Locals Rally at Ohio Statehouse for affordable childcare
» WFMJ | A local childcare provider traveling to the statehouse to advocate for change
» Hannah News | Advocates Urge State to Further Increase Access to Child Care, Raise Worker Pay
» Cleveland.com | What if childcare didn’t exist?
» Cincinnati Enquirer | Dewine must allocate more funding for childcare (op-ed)
» Cleveland.com | President Joe Biden signs executive order aimed at increasing access to child and home care
» Dayton Daily News | New public money helping child care crisis; advocates say more is needed
» Dayton Daily News | ‘Workforce behind the workforce’ challenged by low pay even as child care becomes less affordable
» Columbus Dispatch | I was paid $45.46 for 3 months I cared for children. Ohio must do better. (op-ed)
» Dayton Daily News | Child care crisis’ holds back children, parents, economy
» NBC4 | Columbus parents call for re-evaluation of city schools funding formula
» Ohio Capital Journal | State needs ‘People’s Budget,’ funding child care, public education, policy group says
» Springfield News-Sun & Dayton Daily News | Debate Grows Over How Some Ohio Local Govs Use ARPA Funds
» Crain's Cleveland Business | Police oversight boards have officials, activists, and officers optimistic there is a path to change
» NewsOne | For MLK Holiday, Racial And Social Justice Leaders Urge Policymakers To Emulate Civil Rights Icon
» Statehouse News Bureau | Public school advocates worry DeWine’s budget will take money away from students
» NBC4 | Ohio lawmakers putting final touches on school funding plan in the state budget
» Statehouse News Bureau | The fight over the expansion of Ohio’s school voucher program heats up
» Gongwer | Students Push For Continued School Funding Plan Implementation