2022 Budget Training Academy: Setting Budget Priorities

September 21, 2022

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Tim Johnson, Ohio Poverty Law Center
Katherine Ungar, Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio and the Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition
Advocates for Ohio’s Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 500 state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state’s most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.
AOF Membership

**Steering Committee**

Access to physical and behavioral health care
Nutrition Support
Safe and affordable housing
Services for older adults and people with disabilities
Expanded home and community based services
Early childhood care and education
Workforce development
Broadband access and affordability
Transportation
AOF Membership

Steering Committee 2022

Co-Chairs
Tara Britton
The Center for Community Solutions

Darold Johnson
Ohio Federation of Teachers

Executive Committee
Teresa Lampi
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers
Communications Committee Chair

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Finance & Development Committee Chair

Susan Jagers
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Public Policy Committee Chair

Gina Wilt
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
At-Large

Will Petrik
Policy Matters Ohio
At-Large

Tracy Najerá
Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio
At-Large
AOF 2021-22 Priorities & Policy Work

- Maintain Medicaid eligibility without barriers or cuts so that Ohioans seeking health care and mental health and addiction treatment can continue to access vital services.
- Increase access and affordability of broadband and improve digital literacy.
- Support the immediate, emergency needs of low-income children and families by investing in the core components of the TANF program including emergency assistance, work supports (PRC), food, housing, income-support, and child care.

Work Groups
- TANF
- Broadband
- Work & Wages
- Equity
Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind

Since January 2020, a number of COVID-related enhanced benefits, waivers and program flexibilities have held families together, helped keep them safe and supported their most basic needs, at a time when an unprecedented pandemic raged outside their homes and made going to work a health risk.

When the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) expires (currently set for October 13, 2022, expected to be renewed until mid-January 2023), these flexibilities and expansions will end causing a COVID Cliff, where families still fighting to gain stability will face the end of enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the redetermination of the full Medicaid caseload for the first time in over two years, resumed federal student loan payments, and more.

How can we ensure state, local agencies, providers, and impacted Ohioans are prepared for the PHE unwind and mitigate the impact of the COVID Cliff?
AOF convened a new coalition, the Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition, to analyze and form recommendations for state agencies and counties to “unwind” emergency flexibilities and other policies across assistance programs granted by the federal government to enhance states’ ability to respond to the crisis expeditiously and protect and serve the general public.

Objectives

- Identify all waivers/flexibilities in place across federal/state policies intended to provide additional assistance during public health emergency
- Confirm timeline of expirations-including any state actions needed
- What flexibilities could/should be made permanent (in some way, full or partial)
- Help state agencies connect people with assistance-inform recipients of future changes
- Develop recommendations for state agencies
Potential Impacts

**INDUCED RECESSION**
If disenrollment is accelerated, Ohio Will lose 51.5k jobs including 30.5k outside of healthcare, reducing Gross State Product by $5.2B

**INCREASED GOVT EXPENSE**
County governments have to make determinations and are facing staffing challenges, numerous eligibility systems and threat of penalties

**LEGAL RISK**
Due process and discrimination potential is significant. Additionally, PERM may be impacted, risking billions in clawback from state and county governments

**DISENROLLEMENT**
Up to 440k disenrolled. Increased likelihood of hospitalization.

Source: Commonwealth Fund
Ohio Medicaid Member Contact Information Update
Member Transition & Enrollment

The most important action for Ohio Medicaid members right now is to update their contact information to make sure they do not miss any information about the next generation of Ohio Medicaid.

Members Have Three Options to Update Their Contact Information

Call (844) 640-6446. After selecting the option for their preferred language, they should select option 2 and will be prompted to enter their zip code.

Individuals with an existing Self-Service Portal (SSP) account can report changes online at https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov. After logging in, they should click the Access my Benefits tile, then click Report a Change to my Case from the drop down and follow the prompts.

Contact their County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS). Ohio Medicaid members can find their CDJFS by viewing the County Directory at https://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.stm

Contact Information Includes:
- Name
- Residential Address
- Mailing Address (if different than residential address)
- Phone Number (cell and landline, if applicable)
- Email Address
COVID Cliff

Nutrition
- SNAP
  - Higher base benefits
  - Emergency allotments
  - Online purchasing
  - Process & policy waivers
- WIC
  - Increased voucher value
- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
  - School age benefit
  - “Child care” benefit
COVID Cliff

SNAP Emergency Allotments

Both a federal and state declaration must be in effect for states to continue issuing SNAP EAs.

- While Ohio’s public health emergency declaration was ended by the General Assembly last summer, an administrative economic declaration of disaster has remained to maintain SNAP EAs

756,156 Ohio Households receiving EAs

Average ~$80 per person, per month

$120 million in SNAP EAs issued per month
1 Parent Works Full Time at Minimum Wage

**Single Parent 1 Child**
- Pre-Pandemic: $84
- Temporary SNAP: $346
- With Emergency Benefits: $430

**Single Parent 2 Children**
- Pre-Pandemic: $285
- Temporary SNAP: $330
- With Emergency Benefits: $615

**Married Couple 2 Children**
- Pre-Pandemic: $437
- Temporary SNAP: $345
- With Emergency Benefits: $782
Family of 3: Single Parent, 2 Children


Changes in Estimated Monthly SNAP Benefit:

- **Temporary SNAP**: $175, $207, $331, $597
- **With Emergency Benefits**: $535, $409, $285, $19

### Pre-Pandemic vs. With Emergency Benefits

- **Pre-Pandemic**: $710
- **With Emergency Benefits**: $616
Older Adult Households

Estimated Monthly SNAP Benefit

- **Older Adult**
  - Pre-Pandemic: $218
  - With Emergency Benefits: $234
  - Temporary SNAP: $16

- **Married Couple**
  - Pre-Pandemic: $414
  - With Emergency Benefits: $430
  - Temporary SNAP: $16

- **Older Adult & Disabled Adult**
  - Pre-Pandemic: $309
  - With Emergency Benefits: $430
  - Temporary SNAP: $121

- **Older Adult & 2 Grandchildren**
  - Pre-Pandemic: $497
  - With Emergency Benefits: $616
  - Temporary SNAP: $119
COVID Cliff Bridge: AOF Proposal

Immediate Investment: $331.5 Million

Ohio Foodbanks: $183 Million
Ohio’s foodbank network is already facing incredible need, from inflation, supply chain issues, low donations, and more. This support is vital to ensure foodbanks across Ohio are prepared to meet increased demand following reductions in SNAP benefits, rising operating costs and workforce shortages.

In-Person Assisters: $23.5 Million
When Ohioans receive notices about benefits changes and undergo the Medicaid redetermination process, our in-person assisters will be their first line of support. This funding would support:
- In-person health insurance enrollment assistants
- Legal Aid Services
- A public outreach campaign to inform benefits recipients of changes

County Job & Family Services: $25 Million
County Job and Family Services (CJFS) offices, who process eligibility for most public benefits in Ohio, are already strained by workforce shortages and unsustainably high call volume, which will only increase at the end of the PHE. This funding will support CJFS offices as they process an unprecedented number of cases in a short time.

Direct Service Nonprofit Support: $100 Million
Throughout the pandemic, nonprofits across Ohio have been on the front lines helping communities weather the pandemic. Ohio’s direct service nonprofit network has been pushed to the brink while rising operating costs and workforce issues become more challenging.
A Billion Here, A Billion There:
Where Have All of Ohio’s COVID Relief Dollars Gone?

A report detailing how federal funds have been spent and recommendations for immediate and long-term investments of the $1.9 billion Ohio has left to allocate.

www.OhioARPATracker.org

A dynamic website to track how Ohio is investing its federal COVID relief dollars.
A Billion Here, A Billion There

2.5 Years: $13.3 Billion

Tracking
- How much money was allocated, for what purpose, and has it been spent to date?
- How was the spending authorized?
- How much money is left to be allocated at the state and local level?

Transparency

Advocacy
American Rescue Plan Act: Ohio's Funding Snapshot

$5.37 Billion
Ohio's American Rescue Plan Act Allocation

65%
Percent Ohio Has Allocated to Date

$1.9 Billion
Ohio's Remaining ARPA Funding

OhioARPATracker.org
Lame Duck Watch

- Senate Bill 17 (Schaffer) - Regards eligibility for SNAP, Medicaid, and unemployment

- Public Assistance Benefits Accountability (PABA) Task Force

- Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) and Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) Study Committee
Revenue in Ohio
FY 2021 Revenue

Source: LSC Historic Revenue tables

- Fed.: 32.0%
- Income: 26.0%
- Sales: 31.0%
- Business and Energy: 6.0%
- Other: 3.0%
Since 2005… The Tax Shift.

From the wealthy to the rest of us, from the state to our local communities.

- 10 income tax rate cuts
- Higher sales tax
- Tax loopholes for the well-connected
- Broken promises to local communities, (LGF, Estate, TPP, Rollback)

$8 billion revenue loss

Source: The Great Ohio Tax Shift, Feb. 2022, Policy Matters Ohio
Ohio’s most recent income tax rate cuts…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Tax Rates</th>
<th>2021 Tax Rates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $21,750</td>
<td>$0 - $25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.000%</td>
<td>0.000%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$21,751 - $43,450</td>
<td>$25,000 - $44,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.850%</td>
<td>2.765%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$43,451 - $86,900</td>
<td>$44,251 - $88,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.326%</td>
<td>3.226%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$86,901 - $108,700</td>
<td>$88,451 - $110,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.802%</td>
<td>3.688%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$108,701 - $217,400</td>
<td>$110,651 and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.413%</td>
<td>3.990%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$217,401 and above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.797%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16% rate cut!
Health & Human Service Funding

Source: LSC Historic Spending, and BLS inflation calculator
K-12 school funding

Source: LSC Historic Spending, and BLS inflation calculator
Ohio vs. nation job growth

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Pending tax cut proposals (*Pass the Buck Budgeting*):

- **Eliminate the Commercial Activity Tax - (HB 234)**
  Phase out over 5 years costing the state about $2 billion (in today’s dollars) when fully implemented.

- **Eliminate the state Income Tax - (SB 327)**
  Phase out over 10 years costing state about $11.2 billion (in today’s dollars) when fully implemented.
Let’s build up a stronger Ohio…

1. **Have a Vision** - What will it take to solve Ohio’s most pressing needs? Policymakers need to hear from you what is needed to not only maintain the status quo, but what will it take to build up our community.

2. **Connect the Dots** - Incorporate revenue into your messages and advocacy. Discuss how **sustainable** and **adequate** revenue means for service delivery in this budget and future budgets.

3. **Educate members and coalition partners** on how our state revenues fund important services - revenues are needed to build communities where we want to live.
Let’s make Ohio the best place to raise a family
By investing in the foundations of our communities.

Thank you
Nick Bates, J.D.
Nick@oneohionow.org
In Ohio, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is $887. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn $2,956 monthly or $35,468 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

$17.05 PER HOUR
STATE HOUSING WAGE

FACTS ABOUT OHIO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE FACTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Wage</td>
<td>$9.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Renter Wage</td>
<td>$17.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Bedroom Housing Wage</td>
<td>$17.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Renter Households</td>
<td>1,589,054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent Renters</td>
<td>34%</td>
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</table>

FACTS ABOUT OHIO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Total Ohio Employment</th>
<th>Median Hourly Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>129,270</td>
<td>$35.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Salesperson</td>
<td>120,670</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
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<td>Fast Food Worker</td>
<td>119,790</td>
<td>$10.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>117,320</td>
<td>$10.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer Service Rep</td>
<td>115,180</td>
<td>$17.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocker/Order Filler</td>
<td>107,630</td>
<td>$14.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborer/Freight Mover</td>
<td>105,130</td>
<td>$16.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aide</td>
<td>95,120</td>
<td>$11.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Operations Manager</td>
<td>89,630</td>
<td>$45.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Clerk</td>
<td>86,800</td>
<td>$17.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ohio’s 2 BR Housing Wage $17.05


MOST EXPENSIVE AREAS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Housing Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Union County</td>
<td>$20.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus HMFA</td>
<td>$19.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati HMFA</td>
<td>$18.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland-Elyria MSA</td>
<td>$17.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akron MSA</td>
<td>$17.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area; HMFA = HUD-Metro FMR Area.
Rising Rent and Evictions

Ohio 2-Bedroom Rent
(Source: Apartment List Rent Estimates)

Ohio Eviction Case Filings

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio | 175 S. Third St. Suite 580 Columbus, OH 43215
ARPA for Affordable Housing

Invest $308 million of Ohio’s $5.6 billion to:

- Create 1,500 housing units of supportive housing ($100 million)
- Create up to 5,000 affordable rental homes ($150 million)
- Expand Healthy Beginnings at Home ($9 million)
- Fund Home repair and accessibility upgrades ($39 million)
- Expand the Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) program for people exiting criminal justice system ($10 million)

August 29, 2022

Dear Gov. DeWine, President Huffman, Speaker Cupp, and Members of the Ohio General Assembly:

Home values and the cost of rent have increased at near record levels over the past two years, disproportionately impacting low-income Ohioans and people with disabilities. Fortunately, State Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provide our State an unprecedented opportunity to dramatically increase the supply of housing that is affordable to the most vulnerable Ohioans.

The U.S. Department of Treasury recently issued guidance that eliminates all remaining barriers to investing ARPA funds in affordable housing development and rehabilitation by:

- Clarifying that ARPA funds can be used to finance, develop, repair or operate any rental unit that provides affordability of 20 years or more to households at or below 65% of local median income;
- Expanding presumptively eligible uses for affordable housing; and;
- Increasing flexibility to use ARPA funds to fully finance long-term affordable housing loans.

This means affordable housing developers can now utilize these funds in full compliance with the proposal to invest $308 million in ARPA funding that was submitted to your office earlier this year by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and over 225 other Ohio-based companies and organizations.

We urge you to take action immediately on housing development components of the proposal because time is running out.
2023 State, Federal, Local

• Ohio Housing Trust Fund
• Predatory Housing Investors
• Eviction expungement
• State Low Income Housing Tax Credit

• New Congress, different congressional districts
• Federal Budget

• Local Tenant Protections
  • Pay to Stay
  • Source of Income discrimination
  • Right to Counsel
Advocacy Works!

Power of the People

- Start
- Build Relationships
- Grassroots plan
- Simple and Succinct Messaging
- Communication
- Media and press
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio | 175 S. Third St. Suite 580 Columbus, OH 43215

Housing Crisis In the News

As homelessness worsens, COHHIO and 230 orgs ask state to invest in affordable housing

Business groups, advocates want Ohio to spend on affordable housing

Report: Many of Ohio’s most popular jobs don’t pay enough to afford rent

Advocates call on Ohio leaders to put $308M of federal relief funds into affordable housing

All Sides with Ann Fisher

Addressing homelessness in Columbus and across the country

Here’s how much you have to earn in Ohio and in Columbus to afford a decent 2-BR apartment

VOICES: Ohio must bridge the gap between low wages and high rents

Welcome back! Stay connected with newsletters about our community and the things you love.

Many area jobs do not pay enough to afford rent, report shows
All the P’s
Passionate

• Persuasive
• Persistent
• Polite
Questions?

Gina Wilt
Advocacy Director

ginawilt@cohhio.org
DRO Overview

• Disability Rights Ohio is the state designated and federally authorized protection and advocacy system for the state of Ohio

• Our mission is to advocate for an equitable Ohio for people with disabilities

• Our vision is voices elevated. People empowered. Equity achieved.
DRO’s Guiding Budget Principle

• Increase wages for direct care workers
Ohio HCBS Coalition

- Steering Committee: Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council; Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; and Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging;

- Current membership includes over 100 organizations and self-advocates
Ohio HCBS Coalition

- Collaboration between O4A, DRO, OSILC & DD Council
- Advocates for Ohio’s Future letter calling for support to home and community-based services and supports
- Letter sent to Governor DeWine calling for additional funding to home and community-based services and supports signed by 50 individuals and organizations
- Coalition begins meeting monthly and expands membership
- Establishes mission, goals, objectives, shared talking points, and budget priorities
- Advocated for 10% increase in provider rates over the biennium
- Legislature passed 6% in ODM and ODA and 4% in DODD provider rates
- Governor DeWine vetoed the provision, but rates were still increased
- However, the workforce emergency has only intensified since the previous budget
The Ohio HCBS Coalition advocates for a strong home and community-based supports system that provides all Ohioans the opportunity to thrive and stay connected and engaged in our homes and communities.

www.ohiohcbscoalition.org
Budget Member Priorities

1. Increase direct care worker wages to at least $18/hr

2. This would be a roughly $1B investment into the home and community-based service system

3. Eliminate the requirement for non-agency providers to purchase a surety bond
DRO Budget Advocacy

• Working with disabled advocates and supporting their advocacy

• DRO has been working with the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, Breaking Silences, and the Independent Living Centers to ensure disabled advocates voices are being heard by decision makers

• Our budget advocacy is being primarily driven by these advocates

• DRO will be coordinating advocacy efforts that put disabled advocates at the center and ensure legislators hear directly from them
DRO Budget Advocacy

• DRO has been collecting individual stories about how the direct care workforce shortage is impacting individuals and workers
• DRO will be publishing a story map and report on the direct care workforce crisis
• DRO will be using these resources to organize advocates and provide information to the legislature
• DRO will create toolkits to support advocacy efforts for disabled advocates
• This budget DRO is focused on the grassroots advocacy efforts of disabled advocates
DRO Budget Advocacy

• DRO recognizes the power in elevating individual stories and supporting advocates
• DRO also recognizes how essential coalition efforts are to push forward advocacy efforts
• This budget cycle DRO is focusing on moving both needles forward to ensure one of the largest increases in our HCBS system
• DRO has updated its public policy page that includes toolkits, information on story sharing, how to contact your legislator and ways to get further involved in advocacy efforts in Ohio

• https://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/public-policy-advocacy#Advocacy%20Priorities
Contact

Jordan Ballinger
Policy Director
jballinger@disabilityrightsohio.org
614-466-7264 x135
Setting Budget Priorities

By Tim Johnson
Ohio Poverty Law Center

- We are a statewide non-profit housed within the Ohio State Legal Services Association.

- We are sister organizations with Legal Aid Society of Columbus and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services but work with all Ohio legal aid programs.

- Our Mission: to reduce poverty and increase justice by protecting and expanding the legal rights of Ohioans living, working, and raising their families in poverty.

- All of our budget priorities are set by our mission and the issues faced by legal aid clients.
Budget Priorities: Lead Poisoning Prevention

The Harm of Lead Poisoning

Lifelong impacts include:

• Decreased bone and muscle growth
• Damage to nervous system and/or kidneys
• Speech and language problems
• Hearing loss

• Effects include:
  • Developmental delay
  • Cognitive problems
  • Decreased IQ
  • Attention Deficit Disorder

• Study by CWRU on “Downstream Effects” findings include:
  • Children with EBLL 27% lower chance of being on track for kindergarten
  • 25-30% more likely to enter the juvenile justice system & 34% more likely to be incarcerated as adults
  • By age 23, 40% more likely to require homeless services (and other public aid)
The Scope of the Problem

- Lead dust from lead paint in old housing (built before lead paint was outlawed in 1978) is the number 1 source of child lead poisoning.
- 2/3 of Ohio’s housing stock was built before 1980 and an estimated 427,875 children 6 and under live in this housing.
- Ohio has the second highest percentage of kids who have elevated bloods lead levels in the country.
- Every county in Ohio has young children in housing with potential lead hazards. Every county does not have equal resources.
- We don’t do a good job of ensuring homes are lead safe before a child is exposed or even testing children and following up to remove lead hazards after a child is already poisoned.
Budget Priorities: Lead Poisoning Prevention

• Use the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund to expand upon success of Lead Safe Grants.

• Allow Ohio to enforce the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule.

• Expand SCHIP program to bolster prevention efforts and begin track 2 work.

• Support the bi-partisan proposal to use American Rescue Plan funding for residential lead abatement and lead hazard control.
Challenges with Budget Advocacy

• Competing interests in a crowded field.

• Understanding the issue.

• Understanding the scope & urgency.

• Highlighting success and managing expectations.
Tips On Setting Budget Priorities

• What is your hook?

• What issues matters most to you right now, what is your wish list?

• How can you broaden the appeal of your asks to the widest audience?

• Do not let the definition of a “budget” constrain you. Policy change should always be on the table.

• New ideas are fantastic but don’t be afraid to build off previous successes.
Tips on Budget Advocacy

• Who can you bring in to help you?

• Find the sweet spot when asking for funding.

• Like Noah’s arc, bring two of each when possible.

• Get to know the staffers.

• Check in with all interested parties and groups.

• If possible, consider supporting activities for your asks.
Questions

• (614) 541-1701

• tjohnson@ohiopovertylaw.org
The Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition

Creating a Vision of Whole Child Wellbeing in Ohio’s 2024-2025 Biennial Budget
Why a Children’s Budget?

- While children make up 22% of Ohio’s population, they represent 100% of Ohio’s future. The budget is a moral document that is a reflection of our priorities as a state – we must do right by the children of Ohio.

- The future of Ohio’s children rests, in large part, on the decisions that Ohio’s adults make on their behalf in programs and funding during the budget process.

- It is critical to articulate a hopeful vision for Ohio’s children grounded in a realistic plan for action.

- To support the potential of each child, they must be cared for, healthy, educated, fed, and nurtured. Unfortunately, too many Ohio children are not adequately supported in all areas of their wellbeing.
The Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition (OCBC)

The Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition is made up of 23 statewide advocacy organizations (and growing) committed to creating a vision of whole child wellbeing in Ohio.

- Advocates for Ohio's Future
- Center for Community Solutions
- Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
- Groundwork Ohio
- Juvenile Justice Coalition
- Public Children Services Association
- of Ohio
- Women's Public Policy Network
- Ohio Children's Alliance
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
- Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- Ohio Children's Hunger Alliance
- Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition
- Policy Matters Ohio
- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio Federation of Teachers
- OCALI
- Ohio Poverty Law Center
- Council for a Strong America
- Appalachian Children Coalition
- First Year Cleveland
- Pre4Cle
- Philanthropy Ohio
We advocate for a state budget that:

✔ Prioritizes the whole child, including the communities they call home and the systems they depend on.

✔ Improves outcomes and eliminates silos by building a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of services and programs to address issues beyond the artificial boundaries of agencies and funding streams.

✔ Protects essential programs that promote whole child well-being. Maintains and builds on previous investments that promote health, nutrition, housing security, quality child care, economic stability, strong families, quality education, and critical infrastructure, like broadband, that connects children and families to the services and supports needed during the pandemic and beyond.

✔ Advances budget solutions that prioritize racial equity and combat the effects of structural racism in our communities, which negatively impact child outcomes.

✔ Supports the transition to adulthood. Childhood is a continuum and adolescent development continues through the early 20s. Many youth need additional support to successfully transition to adulthood.

✔ Ensures all investments go toward data/research-driven best practices, approaches, programs, and services that maximize benefits for children and families and represent an effective use of taxpayer investments.
Ohio FY24-25 Budget Priorities

Partners have committed to write 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.

- Strengthen the Ohio Earned Income Tax Credit
- Infant and Maternal Health
- Bridging Ohio's Digital Divide
- Child care workforce shortage and compensation
- Youth Incarceration
- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Childhood mental health
- Full implementation of Fair School Funding Formula
- Expand Summer Food Access for Children
- Ending Homelessness for Children and Families
- Expand Access to High Quality Child Care
- Increased access to school meals for all Ohio students
- Continuous Medicaid Coverage for children
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Multi-System Youth
- Child Lead Poisoning

To access all of our past briefs and learn more, visit: www.ohiochildrensbudget.org
Approach to Advocacy

• Vision: all investments that prioritize our children are possible and necessary to support the whole child; no fixed pie.
• Issue Briefs allow organizations to learn about major issues of other partners and to help find connections between their issues
• Within conversations individual partners have with lawmakers, they also discuss priorities of OCBC members and OCBC collectively
• OCBC to publish an “issue-brief book” comprised of the various issues briefs
• Meetings with administration and legislature that include multiple members of OCBC to discuss issues of child wellbeing
• Webinars, social media outreach, twitter storms, and information sharing
  • Follow OCBC on twitter and social media- @BudgetOhio- Profile / Twitter
Thank You!

Email:
kungar@childrensdefense.org
Next Up: Local, State and Federal Perspectives on HHS

Don’t forget to sign up for our next Budget Training Academy webinar coming up Wednesday October 19th at 10:30am

• Register HERE

Just Announced: Budget Academy Summit on Tuesday, December 6th from 11:30-4:15pm. Register HERE.

Recording and slides will be sent out to all registrants by tomorrow

• Recording and slides will also be available at https://www.advocatesforohio.org/budget-training-academy