



## HB 166: FY20-21 Operating Budget Policy Wins and Progress

### Healthy Children & Families

- **Maintains Medicaid expansion** without new eligibility restrictions
- **Increase access to school-based health and mental health services:** Invests \$675 million over two years in “wraparound” support services by providing mental health counseling, physical health services, mentoring, after-school programs, and more; targets funding to poorest districts-\$360/student with wealthy districts receiving \$30/student
- **Triple investments in evidence-based home visiting to reach Ohio’s most at-risk parents and children:** \$30 million increase for the Help Me Grow evidence-based home visiting program, bringing the total biennial investment to \$70 million
- **Fully fund a comprehensive continuum of care system for behavioral health services that includes prevention and treatment and addresses issues of parity:**
  - Invests \$18 million in a new public awareness education campaign to help reduce the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders
  - Invests \$20 million to provide Ohio’s schools with free, evidence-based prevention curricula and professional development for school personnel
  - Increases treatment capacity in Ohio through an investment of \$22 million to provide crisis support for families
- **Require the reporting of information on pregnancy-associated deaths be submitted to Ohio’s Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) in a timely and complete manner:** The state Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) committee is codified, includes additional privacy protections for the committee and data, and requires reporting every two years
- **Implement and fund a comprehensive approach to address food insecurity and direct state dollars to Ohio families who need it most:** Invests \$24.55 million per year to fund hunger relief

### Quality Communities

- **Increase funding for Adult Protective Services to at least \$10 million per fiscal year with a base allocation of \$65,000 per county:** Additional investment brings APS line-item from \$2.74 million/year (\$31,000/county) to \$4.23 million/year (\$48,000/county)
- **Increase investment in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund:** Increases county recorder fees by \$3, boosting funding for the Housing Trust Fund for homelessness and affordable housing grants by \$2.5 million/year; the first increase in 16 years
- **Reform and increase investment in Ohio’s children services system:** Approved budget more than doubles the state’s investment in children’s services with an additional \$220 million over the biennium including:
  - \$70 million in additional funding to the State Child Protective Allocation
  - \$25 million to provide services for multi-system youth, Ohio’s highest-need children
  - \$5 million for foster and kinship family recruitment and engagement efforts
  - \$8.5 million to establish a Kinship Navigator Program in Ohio

- \$18 million in multi-system youth innovation to avoid custody relinquishment
- Invests an additional \$11.4 million over the biennium to support transition-aged youth exiting foster care

### **Pathways to Prosperity for All**

- **Build and strengthen Ohio's direct service workforce by increasing wages and training:** The budget provides additional funding to increase the hourly rates for direct support personnel under Waiver programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and for certain PASSPORT and Assisted Living services. The specified rate increases were vetoed by the Governor but the funding levels recommended by the Conference Committee on H.B. 166 were maintained.
- **Increase the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), remove the cap and make it refundable:** Ohio's EITC was increased from 10% to 30% of the federal level in the FY20-21 Transportation Budget and the income cap was removed; AOF will continue to advocate for refundability
- **Invest in publicly funded child care and preschool programs:** Though eligibility for publicly funded child care was not expanded, the state will invest more than \$99 million annually to improve the quality of Ohio's childcare system and help providers recruit qualified educators.
  - An additional, one-time \$10 million investment was included to help childcare providers access the capital, services, and resources they need to meet standards set in Ohio's Step Up to Quality rating and improvement system

### **Our Work Ahead...**

- Build state and local infrastructure for the 2020 U.S. Census to ensure each Ohioan is counted for the equitable and accurate distribution of public funds
- Increase access to accessible, affordable public transit and transit alternatives for all Ohioans
  - Though additional dollars for public transit were achieved in the FY20-21 Transportation Budget, the allocation isn't enough to meet the needs of older adults and low income workers and families
- Restore past cuts and increase funding for the Senior Community Services Block Grant
  - Bill provides \$1.2 million in additional funding, but directs it solely to increases in the Senior Farmers' Market program
- Increase investment in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) to support voluntary employment and training activities that increase self-sufficiency for SNAP participants
- Increase the Ohio Works First benefit level for all family sizes using TANF dollars intended to help poor families
- Expand eligibility for publicly funded child care from 130% FPL to 200% FPL
- Fund school safety initiatives that are research-based and support students
- Improve the process to obtain a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE)
- Reinvest funding spent on youth prisons on effective, community-based alternatives to incarceration