



Advocates for Ohio's Future
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Toward the Elimination of Poverty: Budget Solutions for a Safe, Healthy and Thriving Ohio

HEALTH

- **CONTINUE EXTENDED HEALTH CARE** through Ohio's Medicaid Program that maintains, without barriers or cuts (e.g. work requirements or premiums), an affordable, obtainable, comprehensive benefit package for low income Ohioans.
- **MAINTAIN CURRENT QUALITY CARE COORDINATION AND COST EFFECTIVE HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES** under the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and Ohio Home Care waivers.
- **SAFEGUARD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE ACCESS AND CAPACITY**, rebuild system infrastructure, and address workforce challenges by maintaining funding for programs and services to support a public health response to increasing rates of suicide and opiate deaths through the HOPES initiative totaling \$170 million over the biennium.
- **INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HEALTHY FOOD FOR LOW INCOME OHIOANS** by restoring the \$1 million House cuts and increasing funding for the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program by \$5 million per fiscal year over the 2018-19 biennial budget.
- **ENABLE AREA AGENCIES ON AGING TO SERVE MORE OHIOANS AT HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY** by restoring the 1.5 percent House cuts and an additional \$8 million per fiscal year for the Senior Community Services Block Grant and setting aside an additional \$150,000 per fiscal year for Scripps Gerontology Center to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of non-Medicaid interventions through the block grant along with improved health outcomes and subsequent Medicaid savings.

WORKFORCE

- **INVEST IN PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT WORK** to ensure low income Ohioans have the appropriate education and skills to be competitive in the new economy and the necessary work supports to bridge the gap between what they earn and what they need by making the 20 percent state Earned Income Tax Credit refundable, increasing access to affordable child care with 12-month continuous eligibility and initial eligibility set at 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and investing \$2 million per fiscal year in the SNAP Education and Training Program.
- **BUILD AND STRENGTHEN OHIO'S DIRECT SERVICE WORKFORCE** in support of better outcomes of care, improved health of the general population, more efficient use of resources, and a sustainable wage for direct service workers by removing language included in the House budget that prohibits proposed provider rate increases for personal care aides and assisted living waiver rates over the biennium.

SAFETY

- **ENSURE THAT OLDER ADULTS IN ALL COUNTIES ARE SAFE** from neglect, abuse and exploitation by increasing House funding for Adult Protective Services to at least \$10 million per fiscal year with a base allocation of \$65,000 per county and the remainder distributed by formula, so that every county can employ full-time staff and support services to meet the APS standards set forth in the 2016-17 biennial budget.
- **MAINTAIN CURRENT SUPPORT FOR LOW INCOME OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES** who do not meet all eligibility requirements for other federal or state programs through Ohio's Disability Financial Assistance Program.
- **ENSURE THAT COUNTY PUBLIC CHILDREN SERVICES AGENCIES CAN RESPOND TO THE OPIATE CRISIS** and serve its invisible victims—the children—by increasing investment in Child Protective Services Allocation (SCPA) by \$30 million per fiscal year.
- **REDUCE THE NEED FOR PARENTS TO RELINQUISH CUSTODY TO CHILDREN SERVICES** to access treatment for their children by implementing recommendations made by the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth.
- **INCREASE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES** through Ohio's juvenile justice system by allocating \$1 million to implement a statewide data collection system for Ohio's juvenile courts.
- **SUPPORT CRITICALLY IMPORTANT HOUSING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS** for low income Ohioans by maintaining increased investment in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.
- **INCREASE ACCESS TO ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE PUBLIC TRANSIT AND TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES** for all Ohioans by boosting use of federal flex funds to \$50 million and General Revenue Funds to \$25 million per fiscal year and creating a sustainable replacement for lost revenues.