



Quality Communities

People of all ages should have a safe and affordable place to live and access to transportation, healthy food, and essential support services in their communities. Unfortunately, these basic needs are not a reality for the majority of Ohioans and our communities continue to weaken as our neighbors struggle.

Investing in the care and well-being of our children, older adults and homeless families will strengthen communities and attract jobs and economic development. A strong public transit system ensures our neighbors have a reliable way to get to work, earn a decent living and take care of their families.

The following public policies will help build safe, thriving communities that draw business to and promote growth in Ohio:

- **Ensure that older adults in all counties are safe** from neglect, abuse and exploitation by increasing 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 APS standards.
- **Restore past cuts and increase funding for the Senior Community Services Block Grant.** An \$8 million additional investment per fiscal year will increase access to senior services including nutrition programs and transportation without reliance on Medicaid.
- **Support critically important housing projects and programs for low-income Ohioans** by increasing investment in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. Given the proven success of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, now is the time to increase investment to help meet not only Ohio's housing needs, but also address other state issues including health, education, child welfare and the economy.
- **Reform Ohio's children services system** by increasing investment in the State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) and supporting the Children's Continuum of Care Reform (CCCR) to (1) keep more kids at home safely by focusing on prevention and intervention services, (2) build a robust foster care system that can support the needs of children who have to be removed from their homes, and (3) enhance support for kinship caregivers.
- **Increase access to accessible, affordable public transit and transit alternatives for all Ohioans.** Ohio's under-investments in public transit over the past several decades limits low income worker's ability to reach a diversity of jobs with sustainable wages and their ability to support themselves and their families. The state should provide at least \$125 million per year, growing to \$185 million by 2025, to support local public transit so Ohio can create more livable communities and attract economic growth and development.
- **Invest in state infrastructure for the 2020 U.S. Census and establish a state Complete Count Commission** to ensure each Ohioan is counted for the equitable and accurate distribution of public funds. By investing \$2.5 million in general revenue funds towards educational and accuracy efforts in hard to reach communities and dedicating \$250,000 to staff the Complete Count Commission and the DSA, Ohio officials can ensure the state's count is as precise as possible and draw down appropriate federal funds for vital health and social service programs.

Advocates for Ohio's Future

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