



2014-15 Budget Goals that Strengthen Ohio

1 Strengthen Ohio with healthy communities.

Healthy citizens build strong communities, and healthy workers strengthen Ohio's economy. A healthy, productive, and educated workforce is vital to position Ohio as a top tier business location. Our public policies can make Ohioans healthier and more competitive. By investing in public services that make Ohio's workforce healthier and more competitive, our economy is strengthened and Ohio thrives.

Opportunities to build healthy communities in the 2014-15 state budget

- **Medicaid Expansion:** Expand Medicaid eligibility to all Ohioans with income up to 138% of the federal poverty level to extend health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans.
- **Food and Nutrition:** Invest \$34 million over the 2014-2015 biennial budget (\$17 million per year) to support the purchase of food and grocery products, and distribution of this food through the 12 foodbanks, representing all of Ohio's 88 counties and over 3,300 local agencies.
- **Long Term Care:** Spend 50% of Long Term Care funds on home and community based services by 2015 to keep our seniors and people with disabilities living in the settings they prefer,
- **Community Behavioral Health:** Invest in trauma-focused, family-centered community based behavioral health services. The state investment should include prevention, treatment, and recovery and social supports to improve access to services for all Ohioans.

2 Make Ohio more competitive with great public services.

Ohio's communities are stronger when everyone can participate in our economy and democracy. Human services stabilize families so they can compete in the 21st century economy. If people can't maintain what economists call "Basic Spending" levels – on things like food, rent, health care, and transportation – then the entire economy suffers. By investing in public services that make Ohio's workforce more competitive, our economy is strengthened and Ohio thrives.

Opportunities to make Ohioans competitive in the 2014-15 state budget

- **Early Care & Education:** Expand the number of children participating in early childhood programs, while striving toward the quality improvement goals of the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge.
- **Stable Housing:** Invest \$106 million over the 2014-15 budget in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund to ensure that children and families have the housing security necessary to achieve.

Opportunities to make Ohioans competitive (continued)

- **Child Welfare:** Develop a statewide strategy to screen, prevent and treat child trauma. The strategy should offer clinical training for child welfare and behavioral health providers to expand evidence-based treatment programs.
- **Family Policy:** Maintain an investment of \$6.2 million for service coordination of family services in all 88 counties to promote strong families and the development of healthy children.

3 Create more and better jobs for Ohioans.

Ohio's economy is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in our economy. Good jobs and career opportunities for all Ohioans are critical to our state's success. Health and social services are expected to grow more than any other sector in the next five years, bringing thousands of new jobs to Ohio. With new economic development policy we can strengthen our workforce and ensure that every community has jobs that provide opportunity for all.

Opportunities for job growth in the 2014-15 state budget

- **Community Employment:** Invest in Regional Industry Sector Partnerships to move 10,000 Ohioans through quality, employer-driven training for in-demand jobs.
- **Employment for People with Disabilities:** Ensure that all people with disabilities are included in new employment initiatives, starting with the expansion of "Employment First" beyond Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
- **Direct Service Workforce:** Invest in workforce incentives and training programs to attract and retain skilled workers in direct service across the healthcare industry, including long term care, developmental and physical disabilities, behavioral health, and dental. Provider payment reform should support competitive salaries and benefits to retain proficient workers.
- **Team Based Health Care:** Create education and training policies supported by investment and payment reform to develop a health care workforce skilled in team based health care delivery models.
- **Doctor Shortages:** Transition \$100 million in Graduate Medical Education funds to target primary care and psychiatry. The funds should support incentives (scholarships, internships, field placements, residency positions) in areas where there are known professional health care shortages.

When Ohio's economy is strong everybody benefits.

Advocates for Ohio's Future

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Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition of over 400 local and statewide organizations that works to maintain vital public services—health, human services, and early care & education—to strengthen families and communities in Ohio.