



Budget Solutions that Strengthen Ohio

1 Make Ohio more competitive with great public services.

Ohio's communities are stronger when everyone can participate in our economy and democracy. A healthy, productive, and educated workforce is vital to position Ohio as a top tier business location. 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

- **Early Care & Education:** High-quality early learning and development helps ensure that children enter school ready to succeed.
- **Food and Nutrition:** Access to food stabilizes struggling families, supports Ohio workers, and stimulates Ohio's economy.
- **Children Services:** Ohio's child welfare system helps our children and youth become healthy, educated and productive adults able to participate in Ohio's economic recovery.
- **Health Care:** Access to affordable health care helps Ohio become more competitive by providing health coverage, behavioral health care and long term services and supports for children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

2 Strengthen Ohio with strategic economic development.

Ohio's economy is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in our economy. Today, job opportunities are more limited than they need to be. With better economic development we can strengthen our workforce and ensure that every community has jobs that provide opportunity for all and create stronger local economies – full time jobs, jobs with benefits, and jobs that offer career advancement.

Opportunities for strategic economic development

- **Community Employment:** Work supports need to be developed to support community employment for all people in all job sectors, including assisting with education, job training, child care, personal care assistance and transportation.
- **Employment Supports for People with Disabilities:** The Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities lets Ohioans with disabilities build self-sufficiency through employment.

Opportunities for strategic economic development (continued)

- **Stable Housing:** Stable housing strengthens the family foundation, gives children the stability to learn and excel, and adults the ability to maintain employment. Stable housing strengthens the economy by improving living conditions and neighborhoods.
- **Family Supports:** Family-centered programs and services support raising healthy, well developed children and empower families so they can contribute to Ohio's economy.

3 Prepare to fill thousands of health care jobs.

Ohio is positioned to be a national leader in the health care industry through innovation in research, education, and delivery. 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. Investing in Ohio's health care workforce now will strengthen Ohio's economy by meeting the future demand in the health care industry. Investments need to be made in primary care and the direct care service workforce.

Opportunities for job growth

- **Health Care Coverage:** Medicaid expansion will provide health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans, improve health outcomes, and bring \$20 billion (in federal dollars) over the next six years to boost the economy and create jobs.
- **Long-Term Care:** As Ohio's senior populations grows, Ohio can save \$3,333 per person per month for every individual receiving home and community services instead of nursing facility services. Home and community care is good for Ohio's economy and it is the most-preferred long term services and supports option for persons of all ages with disabilities.
- **Community Behavioral Health:** Behavioral health services strengthen Ohio's economy and are essential for a healthy and productive workforce, successful schools, family stability, and building attractive communities.
- **Developmental Disabilities:** Medicaid provides support services for more than 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities as well as jobs for those providing services. We can strengthen Ohio's economy by stabilizing funding at the local level.

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 300 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.