



# Invest in Ohio Children and Protect Our Future

Ohio's children services system ensures our children and youth have a safe and permanent family to become healthy, educated and competitive adults. It provides services to protect children, nurture families and strengthen communities, but Ohio's children services system is in crisis due to the opiate epidemic. Children services agencies' ability to provide essential services to Ohio's children – the silent victims of the opioid crisis – is at risk.

## Children Services



The State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) is the only state general revenue fund allocated to county public children services agencies (PCSAs) to serve abused and neglected children and their families. Since 2010, Ohio has experienced an 11% increase in the number of children in foster care and a 20% increase in placement costs while state funding for the SCPA to county public children services agencies has remained flat. In 2013, the SCPA represented less than 5% of total spending on children services in Ohio. To learn more, visit [www.pcsao.org](http://www.pcsao.org).

**Ensure that county children services agencies can respond to the opiate crisis and serve its invisible victims – the children – by increasing investment in the State Child Protection Allocation.**

- The Ohio House earmarked \$10 million per year within the TANF block grant for the development of a new kinship caregiver child care program and increased funding for public children services agencies by \$15 million per year.
- Increasing investment in the SCPA by \$30 million per fiscal year would allow PCSAs to recruit additional foster and adoptive homes, provide additional support to kinship and foster families, address rising foster care placement costs, recruit and retain a vital workforce, and leverage additional federal funding (for every \$1.00 invested in eligible foster care placement, the federal government provides \$0.62 in match).



## Now is the time to support Ohio children and families.