



February 3, 2023

# AOF's Priorities and the Executive Budget: What's Good, What's Missing, What's Next

**Soley Hernandez**, The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers

**Tim Johnson**, Ohio Poverty Law Center

**Lisa Hamler-Fugitt**, The Ohio Association of Foodbanks

**Darold Johnson**, Ohio Federation of Teachers

**Kelly Vyzral**, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio

**Gina Wilt**, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

**Jordan Ballinger**, Disability Rights Ohio

**Beth Kowalczyk**, The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

[www.advocatesforohio.org](http://www.advocatesforohio.org)

# Budget Process Timeline

Figure A-4: Budget Timeline



# Budget Process

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## House Finance (*February-April*)

- Chair: Representative Jay Edwards
- Vice Chair: Representative Jeff LaRe
- Ranking Member: Representative Bride Rose Sweeney
- Hearings begin next week
- 7 Subcommittees

## Senate Finance (*April-June*)

- Chair: Senator Matt Dolan
- Vice Chair: Senator Jerry Cirino
- Ranking Member: Senator Vernon Sykes
- Subcommittees TBA

## Conference Committee (*Mid to Late June*)

**Governor Signs Budget by July 1, 2023**





# Advocates for Ohio's Future



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Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 500 state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that **all** Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.



# AOF Budget & Policy Priorities

- **Ensure coverage protections and strengthen supportive services as enhanced COVID-era benefits and program flexibilities expire.**
- **Maintain and expand Medicaid eligibility so all Ohioans get the health care and coverage they need.**
  - Expand general Medicaid eligibility up to 300% FPL for families and children
  - Allow for continuous coverage for children up to six years old
- **Convene a dedicated coalition of AOF partners, community organizations and business leaders to develop comprehensive strategies to address the benefits cliff and strengthen work and family supports across public programs.**
  - Expand initial eligibility for publicly funded child care from 142% FPL to 200% FPL.
  - Increase the minimum benefit for SNAP for older adults and those with disabilities without earned income to \$50 per month.
  - Reward work and make a difference for low-income families by making the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) fully refundable and creating a state-level family tax credit.



# House Finance Hearing Schedule

- *Tuesday, February 7* – **9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** - OBM & LSC testify in full Finance on Operating budget. **2 p.m. – 5 p.m.** - DOT, Public Safety & Turnpike Commission testify in Finance Transportation Subcommittee on Transportation budget.
- *Wednesday, February 8* – **9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** - Medicaid agency panel testimony before full Finance. Transportation sub-committee meets after Session.
- *Thursday, February 9* – **9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** - ODE & BOR testimony in full Finance. **1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** – Taxation testimony in full Finance. Transportation sub-committee meets after Finance.





**SFY 2024-2025**

# **Behavioral Health Budget Proposals**

**Soley Hernandez, LISW-S**

**Associate Director of Community Services**

**February 3, 2023**

# About The Ohio Council

- Ohio's trade association representing mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers.
- More than 165 members across the state.
- Member Services:
  - Policy and Advocacy (State and Federal)
  - Technical Assistance
  - Training Opportunities
  - Community Education Support

# The Ohio Council's SFY 24-25 Budget Priorities

- Improve Quality and Expand Access to Treatment
- Enforce Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Insurance Parity
- Strengthen the Behavioral Health Workforce Pipeline
- Support Statewide Prevention Efforts
- Invest in Behavioral Health Crisis Services & Integrated Care Delivery
- Improve Outcomes through Recovery Supports & Population Health Strategies

# Initial Budget Insights

- The Ohio Council is optimistic about the SFY 24-25 budget and Governor DeWine's continued support for children, youth, and families, including the focus on building a community behavioral health system of care.
- Additionally, the creation of the State of Ohio Action for Resiliency (SOAR) Network to understand the root causes of mental illness and substance abuse is a significant initiative that will benefit all Ohioans and advance treatment practices.

# Blue Book Highlights for Behavioral Health

- Medicaid: The recommended budget invests in historic provider rate increases that will help address current healthcare workforce shortages by supporting higher wages and providing additional workforce supports. This increased support will ensure greater system stability and greater access to care for Medicaid recipients.

# Blue Book Highlights for Behavioral Health

- OhioMHAS:

- The department will invest over \$20 million for allocations to ADAMHs Boards for local priorities in prevention, early intervention, and suicide prevention.
- The recommended budget includes \$20.5 million to improve community treatment and recovery supports for Ohioans living with severe mental illness.
- Recommended funding levels of \$16 million over the biennium for forensic centers.
- Investing \$663 million, in conjunction with federal funds already appropriated, to grow opportunities in BH workforce to increase career awareness and adequately recruit, retain, and support modern practice.

# Blue Book Highlights for Behavioral Health

- Insurance: The Department launched a campaign to help Ohioans understand their mental health and substance use disorder benefits in FY 2020 and builds on that work during the current biennium. During the FY 24-25 biennium, the budget will continue to build on educational and outreach efforts.

# Blue Book Highlights for Behavioral Health

- Department of Children and Youth: Highlights programs and funding that will transition to this new department.
  - \$46.1 million per year increased investment in early childhood programs
  - \$119.4 million across the biennium for Help Me Grow
  - Invests \$11.3 million for early childhood mental health credentialing;
  - Recommends funding supports for new and existing initiatives to prevent children from entering foster care and expedites finding of permanent homes.

# TBD

- Specific policy and investment details related to:
  - Behavioral health crisis infrastructure and service development, including 9-8-8
  - Recovery housing and other recovery supports
  - Insurance parity enforcement efforts
  - School-based behavioral health funding and requirements



Thank you!

Soley Hernandez

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# Lead Poisoning Prevention & The Blue Book

By Tim Johnson

# The Problem

- There is NO safe level of lead in the bloodstream.
- Lead dust from lead paint in old housing (built before lead paint was outlawed in 1978) is the number 1 source of child lead poisoning.
- 2/3 of Ohio's housing stock was built before 1980 and an estimated 427,875 children 6 and under live in this housing.
- Every county in Ohio has young children in housing with potential lead hazards.
- The percentage of Ohio children testing positive for elevated blood lead levels is double the national average. Ohio has the second highest rate of children testing positive for elevated blood lead levels in the country.

# The Effect

- Lifelong impacts include:
  - Decreased bone and muscle growth
  - Damage to nervous system and/or kidneys
  - Speech and language problems
  - Hearing loss
- Effects include:
  - Developmental delay
  - Cognitive problems
  - Decreased IQ
  - Attention Deficit Disorder
- Study by CWRU on “Downstream Effects” findings include:
  - Children with EBLL 27% lower chance of being on track for kindergarten
  - 25-30% more likely to enter the juvenile justice system & 34% more likely to be incarcerated as adults
  - By age 23, 40% more likely to require homeless services (and other public aid)

# What's In

- Additional Funding for Lead Poisoning Prevention
  - \$22.4 million over the biennium for various lead poisoning prevention programs.
  - Includes funding to continue the lead safe home fund.
- Continuation of Lead Safe Funding for City of Cleveland
  - \$1 million in each fiscal year.
- Increase in H2Ohio funding
  - H2Ohio funding will be increased to \$31.3 million each fiscal year.
  - Funds can be spent on a variety of different projects including the replacement of lead service lines.

# What We are Watching

- Part-C Early Intervention is flat funded for FY 24,25
  - Children who test for elevated blood lead levels are currently eligible for EI services.
  - The state of Ohio is currently considering a rule change that would lower the elevated blood lead level threshold from 5.0 to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter.
  - Rule to allow children under 3 who test at 3.5 to qualify for EI services is expected.
  - This will lead to more children requiring EI services.
  - We will work with our legislative partners on increasing EI funding.

# What's Missing

- Blue Book does not mention Ohio taking over enforcement of the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule (RRP)
  - RRP was created in 2010 and requires contractors performing renovation, repair, and painting work in homes built before 1978 to do so in lead safe manner.
  - Enforcement happens at the federal level, but it is hit or miss at best. Often complaints are ignored and when fines are leveled, they can be unnecessarily hefty.
  - States can take over enforcement of the rule and make it more user friendly.
  - RRP enforcement could be in budget bill language, we will see.

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# Hunger Relief Priorities: 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



**The Biennial Budget is an important opportunity for Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly to continue the strong, bipartisan support for hunger relief and to support our most vulnerable neighbors**



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank



Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member agencies

**Ohio Association of Foodbanks represents Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and supplemental feeding programs.**

**In SFY 2022, the association and our member foodbanks acquired and distribute more than 242 million pounds of food and grocery items, or 50 million few pounds then in 2021, due to supply chain disruptions, sharp declines in federal and private food donations and increasing food cost.**

**Over 20% of all the food distributed comes from the support from state funding, and is used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, proteins, and staple items for foodbank serving Ohioans across all 88 counties – wholesome items we don't normally see in our traditional donations.**



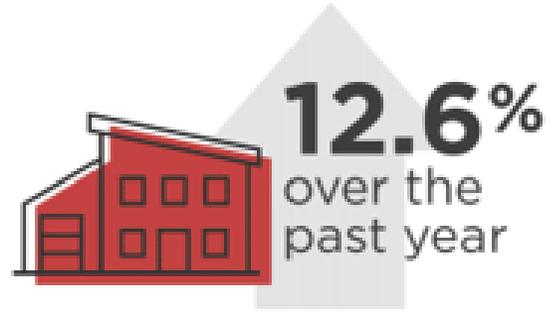
Despite having recovered 85% of jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation has wiped out many gains Ohioans had made.



Meat, fish, and egg prices



The cost to heat homes



2-bedroom unit in Ohio

# The Need is Great and Likely to Increase

- In the first half of 2022, Ohio foodbanks provided emergency take-home groceries nearly 6 million times, even as 1.5 million Ohioans continued to receive SNAP Emergency Allotments under the public health emergency.
- Those 1.5 million people will see their SNAP benefits reduced by an average of \$90 per person, per month beginning in March. The loss of those enhanced benefits will be enormous – working families, older adults, and people with disabilities will be hit the hardest, and overall, Ohio will lose \$1.2 billion in SNAP benefits in 2023.
- Ohio's foodbanks will be called on to fill as much of the gap as we can.

# Our successful, decades-long public-private partnership with the State of Ohio supports:

**Our workforce:** providing a safety net for workers; preventing job loss and greater economic hardship by responding to household income shortfalls during personal or community crises, from a car repair bill to a tornado

**Our families and older adults:** helping kids learn and grow; supporting parents so they can focus on keeping up with other household expenses from housing to healthcare; and rethinking how we support older adults as they strive to age in place with dignity and in better health

**Our agriculture and food producers:** supporting agricultural and food supply chains; providing a safety net for producers facing climate and market instability; reducing food waste

# 2021 and 2022 Budget Investments

## **Critical investments in hunger relief have made and are making a huge impact**

- **2021 Coronavirus \$12 million for critical food and capacity to meet pandemic driven demand**
- **2022 ARPA \$15 million for critical purchases of Ohio grown and raised meat, poultry and dairy products to meet the increased demand**
- **2022 – HB 45 provided \$25 million for additional food purchases for shelf stable, high protein and in demand produce and dairy**
- **2022/2023 State Budget Appropriation of \$49 million (\$24.5 per year) supplied more than 100 million pounds of food to hungry and food insecure Ohioans**

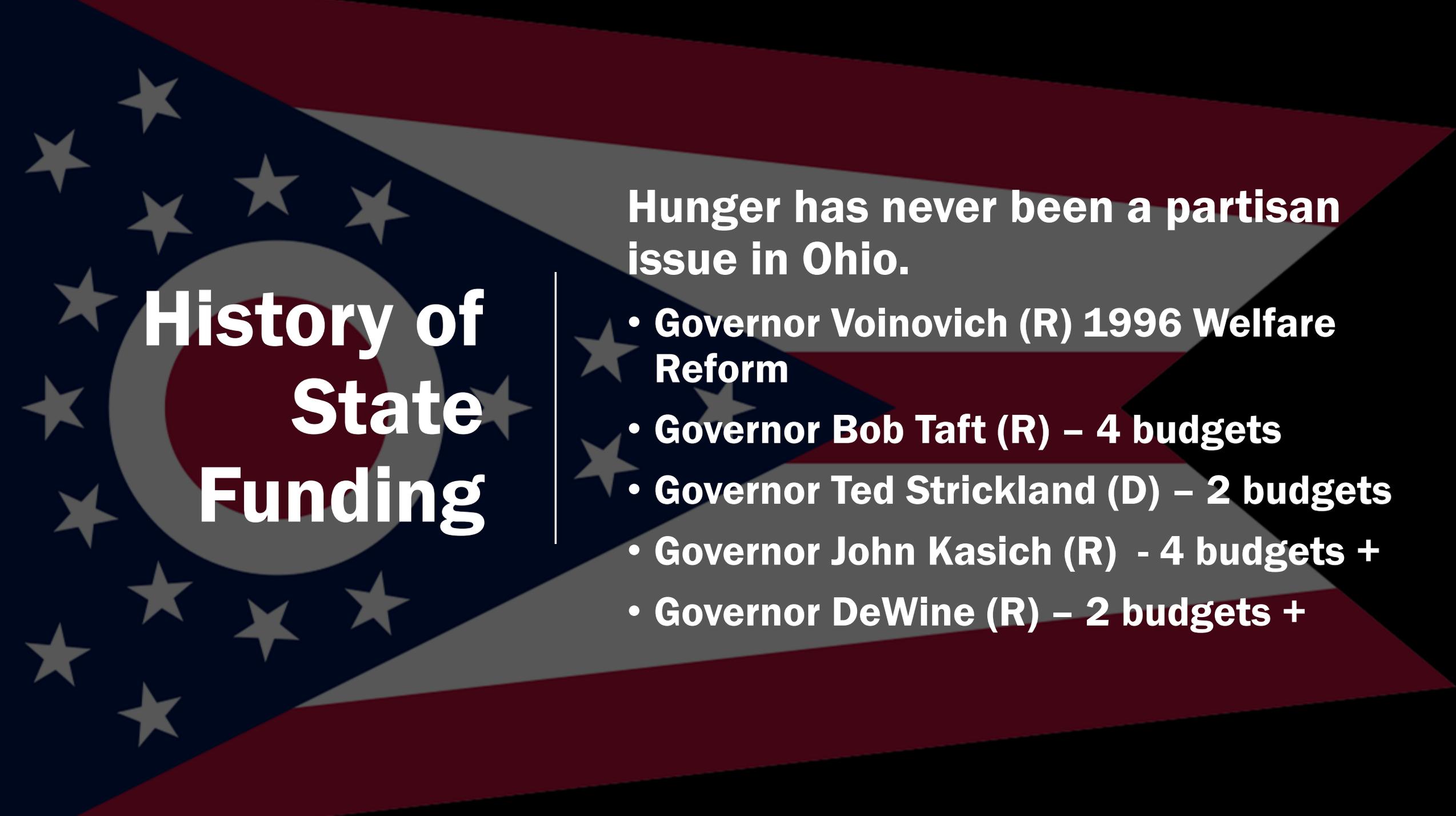
# Our Core State Budget Request

## **\$50 million per year in SFY 2024-2025**

- **\$49 million for food and essential non-food household items: The Association will secure and distribute at least 65 million pounds, or 54 million meals, of nutritious, wholesome foods across the state. This money will also be used for essential non-food household items, such as shampoo, toothpaste, baby wipes, diapers, and toilet paper.**
- **\$1 million for capacity building for the network (coolers and freezers for pantries, box trucks for foodbanks, equipment, etc.)**

# Other Opportunities to Fill the Gap

- **Provide a state supported supplemental SNAP benefit for seniors and persons with disabilities to \$50 per month**
- **Provide Universal Free School Meals for ALL Children - Hunger-Free Schools Ohio**
- **Expand Summer and Out of School time meals with additional state funding**
- **Protect (and expand) SNAP, Medicaid**
- **Support adequate funding for state and county agencies, overall investments in health and human services**
- **Address the benefit cliff and increase family stability by making the State EITC benefit REFUNDABLE**



# History of State Funding

**Hunger has never been a partisan issue in Ohio.**

- **Governor Voinovich (R) 1996 Welfare Reform**
- **Governor Bob Taft (R) – 4 budgets**
- **Governor Ted Strickland (D) – 2 budgets**
- **Governor John Kasich (R) - 4 budgets +**
- **Governor DeWine (R) – 2 budgets +**

# Why this should be a no brainer

- **\$120 million per month in SNAP emergency allotments ending beginning in March**
- **More than a year of historic inflation especially for food and other basic household expenses**
- **State is in an incredibly positive revenue position, unlike past recoveries**
- **Federal pass-thru \$\$ remain**

Feb-23





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**Darold Johnson**  
Ohio Federation of Teachers



# Child and Family Proposals in the Governor's Budget

Kelly Vyzral  
Senior Health Policy Associate  
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio  
February 3, 2023



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ohio

# Department of Children and Youth

- **Goal:**
  - Promote efficiency
  - combining functions and programs from six different state agencies,
  - will reduce duplicative programs from across state government
- **Programs Include:**
  - Prevention/Early Identification
  - Early Education
  - Support
- **Created July 1, 2023**
- **January 1, 2025- go live**



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ohio

# Early identification/Prevention

- Home Visiting: \$36.7M increase over the biennium for Help Me Grow
  - Goal to reach 17,950 families
  - Enroll 86.4% of eligible pregnant women
- Infant Vitality: \$11.2M increase over the biennium in infant vitality supports and resources
- Ohio Family Children First Council: \$1.3M/year



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ohio

# Early Education

- Expansion in eligibility or publicly funded child care from 142% to 160% FPL
  - \$47K for a family of 4
  - More than 15,000 children will gain access.
- \$150M in ARPA funds to provide scholarships and increase infant/toddler capacity
- \$46M/year increased investment in ODE Early Childhood Education
  - Estimated to serve an additional 11,525 children under 200% FP



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ohio

# Medicaid Provisions

- Expanded Medicaid coverage for Pregnant women and children to 300%
  - Protects working families who don't qualify for Medicaid but can't afford private coverage
- Create health coverage for privately adopted youth with special health care needs (Currently only available for public adoptions)
- Modernizing the Medicaid in Schools program to cover all Medicaid eligible children
  - Increases access for school-based children's health care – physical, mental, and behavioral – without additional general revenue spending.



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# Additional Support

- **Mental Health:**
  - \$20M over the biennium to expand Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.
  - \$11.3M for early childhood mental health credentialing to expand the workforce.
- **Taxes:**
  - \$2,500/child state tax deduction
  - Eliminates sales tax on critical infant supplies, such as diapers, wipes, cribs, car seats, strollers, and safety equipment
- **Nutrition:**
  - Expand nutrition assistance coordination across WIC and SNAP



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# Wish List

- Medicaid continuous eligibility for children through age 6
- Expand the type of evidence-based programs that are reimbursable under Help Me Grow
- Increase eligibility for publicly funded child care to 200%
- Medicaid coverage of doula care services
  - Physical, emotional, and educational support
- Acknowledge the need to fully fund the FSFP - ensures all these other investments are as effective as they can be and can build on each other
- Hunger Free Schools
  - Ensure all Ohio students have access to free school meals.
- Fully refundable child tax credit
- OCBC priorities laid out in the “Creating A Vision of Child Well-Being For Ohio”



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# children's defense fund ohio

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# “Pledge to the people of Ohio: *Address the issue of housing holistically*”



# Housing Crisis In the News

The Columbus Dispatch

## As homelessness worsens, COHHIO and 230 orgs ask state to invest in affordable housing

by Allison Walker | Friday, August 19th 2022

Ohio

NEXT UP Higher grade could save Ohio taxpayers when state borrows

## Business groups, advocates want Ohio to spend on affordable housing

By J.D. Davidson | The Center Square Sep 2, 2022

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Newark Advocate.

NEWS

## Increasing rents in Licking County force lower-income residents onto streets

STC

It'



All Sides with Ann Fisher

## Addressing homelessness in Columbus and across the country

LOCAL

## Report: Many of Ohio's most popular jobs don't pay enough to afford rent



By WHIO Staff August 09, 2022 at 8:47 pm EDT



Report: Many of Ohio's most popular jobs don't pay enough to afford rent

## Advocates call on Ohio leaders to put \$308M of federal relief funds into affordable housing

The Statehouse News Bureau | By Andy Chow

Published August 25, 2022 at 3:56 PM EDT



FOR SUBSCRIBERS NEWS

## Here's how much you have to earn in Ohio and in Columbus to afford a decent 2-BR apartment



Mark Ferenchik

The Columbus Dispatch

Published 6:01 a.m. ET Aug. 16, 2022 | Updated 8:24 a.m. ET Aug. 16, 2022

Dayton Daily News

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## VOICES: Ohio must bridge the gap between low wages and high rents



Dayton Daily News

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## Many area jobs do not pay enough to afford rent, report shows

# 2022 Out of Reach Report

## OHIO

In **Ohio**, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$887**. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn **\$2,956** monthly or **\$35,468** annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

**\$17.05**  
PER HOUR  
STATE HOUSING  
WAGE

### FACTS ABOUT OHIO:

STATE FACTS	
Minimum Wage	<b>\$9.30</b>
Average Renter Wage	<b>\$17.33</b>
2-Bedroom Housing Wage	<b>\$17.05</b>
Number of Renter Households	<b>1,589,054</b>
Percent Renters	<b>34%</b>

**73**  
Work Hours Per Week At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a **2-Bedroom**  
**Rental Home** (at FMR)

**58**  
Work Hours Per Week At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a **1-Bedroom**  
**Rental Home** (at FMR)

**1.8**  
Number of Full-Time Jobs At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a  
**2-Bedroom Rental Home** (at FMR)

**1.5**  
Number of Full-Time Jobs At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a  
**1-Bedroom Rental Home** (at FMR)

MOST EXPENSIVE AREAS	HOUSING WAGE
Union County	<b>\$20.56</b>
Columbus HMFA	<b>\$19.85</b>
Cincinnati HMFA	<b>\$18.62</b>
Cleveland-Elyria MSA	<b>\$17.17</b>
Akron MSA	<b>\$17.12</b>

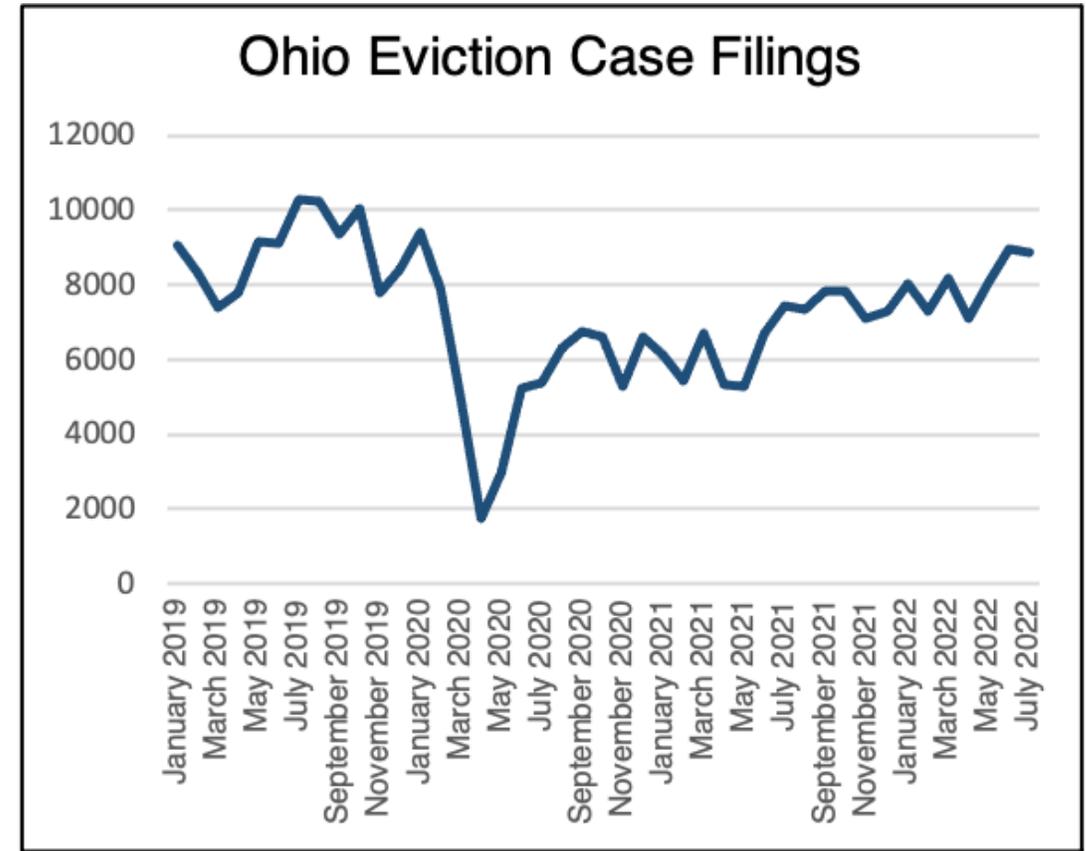
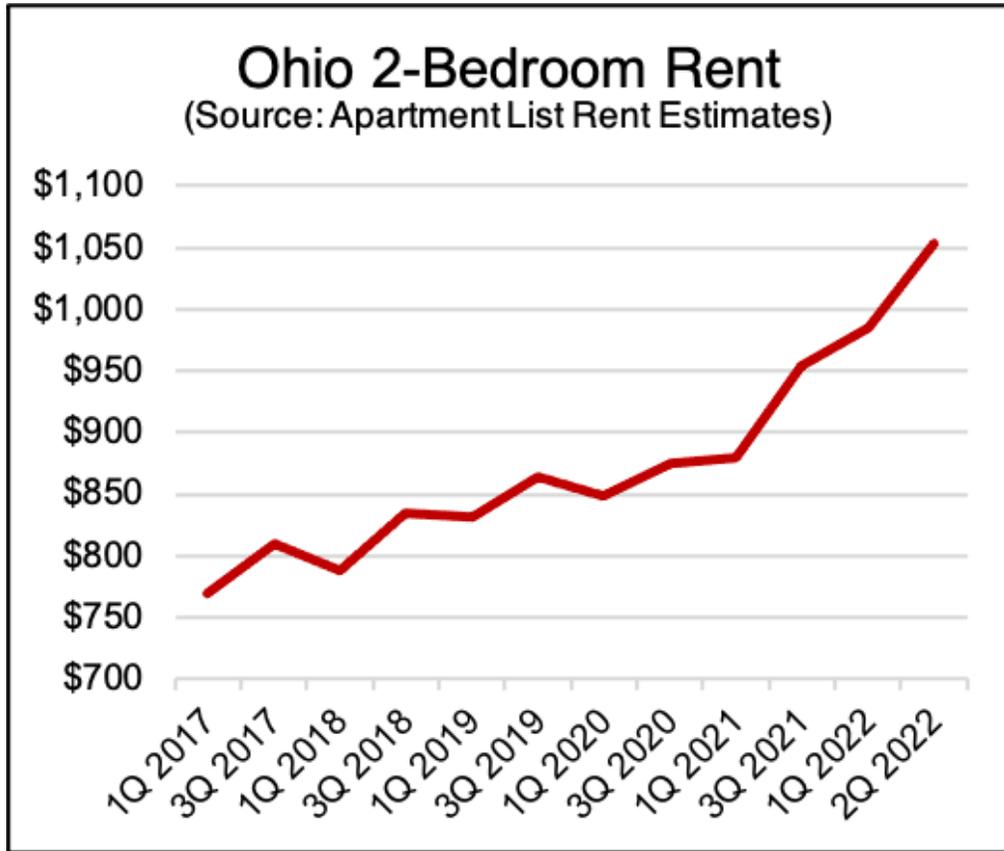
MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area; HMFA = HUD Metro FMR Area.



Occupation	Total Ohio Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Registered Nurse	129,270	\$35.62
Retail Salesperson	120,670	<b>\$12.99</b>
Fast Food Worker	119,790	<b>\$10.70</b>
Cashier	117,320	<b>\$10.96</b>
Customer Service Rep	115,180	\$17.89
Stocker/Order Filler	107,630	<b>\$14.39</b>
Laborer/Freight Mover	105,130	<b>\$16.37</b>
Home Health Aide	95,120	<b>\$11.54</b>
General Operations Manager	89,630	\$45.60
Office Clerk	86,800	\$17.85
<b>Ohio's 2 BR Housing Wage</b>		<b>\$17.05</b>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [May 2021 Ohio Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

# Rising Rent and Evictions



# Record Highs

<https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/>

# Governor DeWine's Executive Budget



Agency	Fund	ALI	Name	FY23	FY24	FY25
DEV	6460	195638	Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Programs	\$55,287,210	\$65,000,000	\$65,000,000
DEV	3080	195603	Housing Assistance Programs	\$12,010,656	12,575,000	\$12,575,000
EDU	3EJO	200622	Homeless Children Education	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
DOH	GRF	440672	Youth Homelessness	\$3,403,117	\$3,569,870	\$3,744,794

# HBAH

Healthy Beginnings At Home will be part of the new Department of Children and Youth budget with a \$16 million appropriation in FY24 and a \$1 million appropriation in FY25.

HBAH is a public-private partnership leveraging federal, state, and local dollars in various communities with the power of philanthropy.

## HBAH *cont.*

Healthy Beginnings at Home is a collaborative effort to reduce infant mortality by providing housing assistance to unstably housed Ohioans. This initiative is building scientific evidence that shows stable housing improves birth outcomes for at-risk women and their families, reduces Medicaid spending, and addresses racial disparities.

# State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

It is a public private partnership to meet Ohio's unmet housing needs. Not only that, but housing development creates jobs, stimulates economic growth, and boosts state and local tax revenues. Successful outcomes in other states demonstrate that state credit programs make good business sense and with good policy attached to the state dollars it could create affordable units that Ohio desperately needs.

# State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit *cont.*

At present, 20 other states have effectively utilized state housing tax credit programs as a mechanism to provide a state-level funding to draw down federal resources to meet affordable housing needs. This Ohio Affordable Housing Tax Credit could leverage existing federal housing tax credits and drive the creation of affordable workforce, family and senior housing through private investment.

# *Housing Now for Homeless Families\**

HNHF will allow local agencies all throughout Ohio to strategically align TANF with additional resources that serve their community's homeless population.

HNHF providers have proven their robust collaboration skills. They work in conjunction with other homeless resources to align federal, state, local and private resources. It's all about Rapid Re-housing and the ability to deliver speedy, nimble assistance to keep families stable.

*\*Still waiting to see the JFS TANF line items*

# Questions?



**COHHIO**

Coalition on Homelessness  
and Housing in Ohio

Gina Wilt

Advocacy Director

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# Governor DeWine's BlueBook

Advocates for Ohio's Future  
Budget Webinar



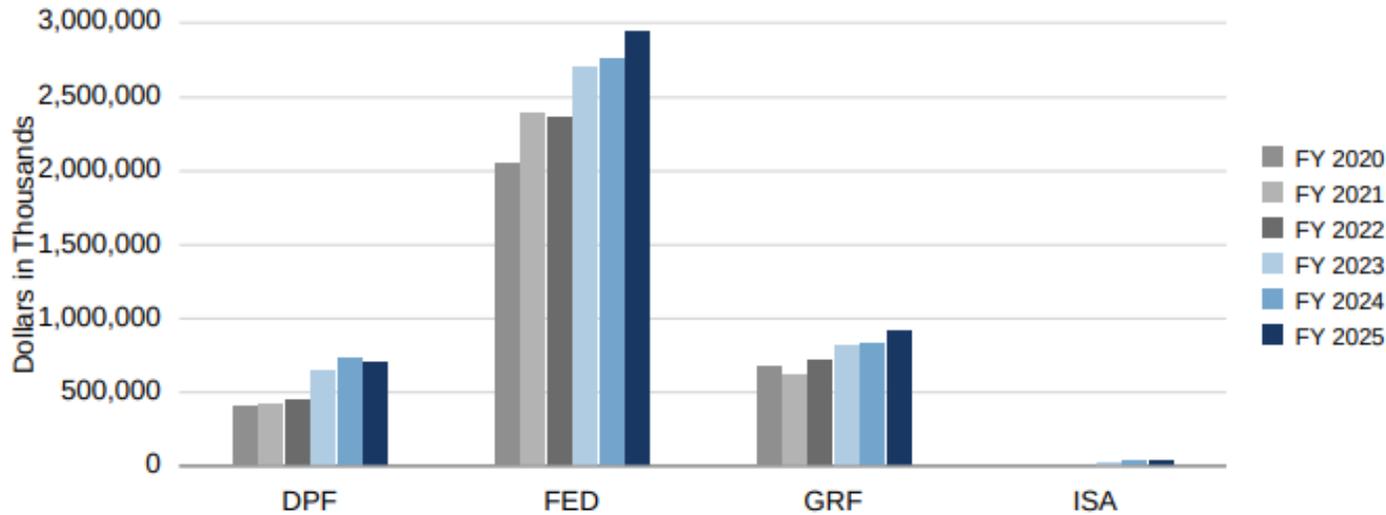
**Disability  
Rights** OHIO

We have the  
legal right of way.

# Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)



Expenses by Budget Fund Group



(in Thousands)	Actual			Estimated	Recommended			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	% Change	FY 2025	% Change
DPF Dedicated Purpose	410,863	415,149	446,575	650,264	728,028	12.0%	695,944	-4.4%
FED Federal	2,056,338	2,387,962	2,363,498	2,701,506	2,758,255	2.1%	2,939,344	6.6%
GRF General Revenue	675,709	622,532	723,230	816,411	833,006	2.0%	910,490	9.3%
ISA Internal Service Activity	8,519	9,000	11,774	14,319	31,000	116.5%	31,000	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,151,429</b>	<b>3,434,643</b>	<b>3,545,078</b>	<b>4,182,500</b>	<b>4,350,290</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>4,576,778</b>	<b>5.2%</b>

# DODD Highlights



- \$579M investment into provider rates with the primary purpose of increasing direct care wages
- Residential home and community-based services (HCBS) will increase by 16.5% resulting in \$16/hr average wage for direct care workers
- Other HCBS services increasing 10%
- New language requiring boards of developmental disabilities have at least one person eligible for services be appointed to the board
- Partner to increase the availability of universal changing tables in public spaces and businesses
- Increased funding to support multi-system youth initiatives

# Contact



Jordan Ballinger, Policy Director

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**The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging**  
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

## **Aging & HCBS Governor's Budget Preview**

Beth Kowalczyk  
Chief Policy Officer  
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
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# Department of Aging Blue Book

- \$40 million in state ARPA – Healthy Aging grants
  - PACE (Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) expansion to 6 more counties
  - Additional \$3 million/yr GRF for Senior Community Services
  - Additional \$2 million/yr GRF for Alzheimers and Dementia
  - Aging Economy Report
  - Investments in Technology
- 



# Department of Medicaid (HCBS?) Blue Book

“Highlight: The recommended budget invests in historic provider rate increases that will help address current healthcare workforce shortages by supporting higher wages and providing additional workforce supports. This increased support will ensure greater system stability and greater access to care for Medicaid recipients.”

“Goal: Analyze and evaluate shifts in the economy and how changes can impact providers and members.

- The Department will prioritize provider rate changes approved through the budget process and their impacts on workforce and service provision.”
- 



# Governor's State of the State: Nursing Homes

“But, any discussion about rebasing will also include a serious discussion about quality in our nursing homes.

So, in the coming days, I will be appointing a task force to study the issues surrounding quality of life and quality of care in our nursing homes. This matter is urgent, and I will give this group a short timeline to report back to the people of Ohio.

They will travel across the state and will hear directly from residents and families about their lived experiences. We will give them a voice, and we will empower them to help drive solutions.”



# Our Budget Webinar Series Will Continue!

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Keep an eye out for the next conversation in our Budget Webinar Series! We'll be hosting conversations on the budget for the next 5 months.

Recording and slides will be sent out to all registrants by this afternoon

- Recording and slides will also be available at <https://www.advocatesforohio.org/webinars>

