

STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES

FY2026-2027

Children's Health & Healing

- **CHAMPION SAFE, AFFORDABLE BIRTH CARE FOR ALL MOTHERS**
 - Remove the house-passed limitation on statewide Medicaid reimbursement for doula services coverage to just six counties with the highest infant death totals and instead implement the Governor's plan for statewide doula coverage (MCD62).
- **MAKE SURE BABIES GET THE CARE THEY NEED**
 - Restore the mandate requiring that the Ohio Department of Medicaid seek approval to provide continuous Medicaid coverage for eligible children from birth through age three (MCD41).
- **PRIORITIZE OHIOAN'S HEALTH—NOT FEDERAL PRESSURE.**
 - Give the Ohio Department of Medicaid flexibility to respond to federal funding changes instead of mandating an immediate Medicaid cutoff that would jeopardize care for over 770,000 Ohioans (section 126.70).
- **ENSURE A HEALTHY START FOR EVERY CHILD**
 - Reinstate the Governor's expansion of the Help Me Grow program which will provide nurse home visiting services (Family Connects Ohio) for families with newborns (GRF 830403).
- **RESTORE FUNDING FOR LEAD POISONING PREVENTION**
 - Reinstate the Ohio Department of Health's Lead Safe Home Fund to prevent devastating, irreversible harm to children—especially in smaller communities without local lead abatement programs.

Early Learning & Development

- **ENSURE EVERY FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE**
 - Increase initial eligibility for Publicly Funded Childcare to include those at 300% of the Federal Poverty Line
 - Cap co-pays for families receiving Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) at 7% of household income
 - Reimburse childcare providers at the 75th percentile of market rates to promote sustainability and ensure quality care.
 - Rescind the Department of Children and Youth waiver that allows reimbursement based on attendance rather than enrollment, aligning Ohio with federal standards in 2025 (KID44).
 - Adopt a funding model based on the true cost of care, including a \$20/hour minimum wage for childcare workers.
- **GUARANTEE EXCELLENT LOCAL LIBRARIES**
 - Increase funding for public libraries from 1.7% to 1.9% of the General Revenue Fund. Reject the house-passed accounting tactics that would facilitate the cutting of library resources (RDFCD2 R.C. 131.51).



Education for Civic Life and Work

- **ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE HAVE A PATHWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION**
 - Include Funding for S.B 13's Foster-to-College Scholarship program in the state budget (SC-136-0957).
- **FUND SCHOOLS FAIRLY AND BASED ON THE TRUE COST OF EDUCATING**
 - Support the full inclusion of the fair school funding plan with updated cost data in the Ohio state budget for FY26-27.
- **MAKE SURE STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS**
 - Provide state funding to cover the portion of school meal costs not paid by the federal government, ensuring schools are fully reimbursed at the "free rate" for all meals served.

Family Stability & Economic Mobility

- **PROVIDE URGENTLY NEEDED POVERTY RELIEF FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.**
 - Ensure working families have access to a refundable child tax credit (as introduced version, SC0572)
- **PRIORITIZE FAMILY STABILITY OVER SPECIAL INTEREST MEGA-PROJECTS.**
 - Public dollars should strengthen neighborhoods, not subsidize billion-dollar stadiums that are profitable for wealthy investors but have limited public return. Reject the provision to establish \$600 million in bonds for a new stadium in Brook Park (FCCCD9).

Just & Caring Communities

- **REDUCE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**
 - Fund the creation of a Community Corrections Facility in each of the three counties that commit the highest number of youths to DYS (Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton), allowing youth to receive more appropriate care closer to home, where they can better access family and community resources.
 - Reduce reliance on youth confinement, which does not increase community safety, and use the savings to expand alternative programs
 - Focus on upstream investment in programs that particularly reach low-income families and under-resourced communities that commit the most youth to DYS
 - Replace large congregate-care facilities with smaller community-connected facilities that leverage local behavioral health and other resources and partners for youth.

