



VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN

2017

STATE POLICY AGENDA

safe

healthy

educated

connected

employable



ENSURE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR KIDS:

- Retain the comprehensive package of children's benefits in Medicaid including optional services such as oral healthcare in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program.
- Maintain Medicaid Expansion.
- Pursue innovative policy opportunities to build access to healthcare for children in school settings.
- Ensure that Behavioral Health Redesign strengthens access to care for children and families by monitoring the implementation and effects of the policy proposals, including workforce capacity and access to services.
- Support the elimination of health disparities and promote health equity to reduce infant mortality.



POSITION CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS EARLY:

- Advocate for changes to further improve the effectiveness and availability of home visiting services to Ohio children and families through Help Me Grow and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), consistent with the 2016 recommendations of the Home Visiting Stakeholder and Provider Workgroups.
- Support statewide efforts to increase access to high-quality child care including ensuring adequate funding for the Step Up To Quality rating and improvement system.
- As the state lead for the Grade-Level Reading Campaign, support and advocate for policies that ensure more children in low-income families succeed in school.



STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT YOUTH:

- Support access to quality after school programming.
- Resolve challenges and barriers to accessing coordinated care across child-serving systems for children and families consistent with the Joint Committee on Multi-System Youth recommendations.
- Support the successful implementation of the extension of foster care through age 21.
- Ensure that the Department of Youth Services maintains its mission and youth-specific programming that produce the best outcomes for Ohio's youth, families and communities.
- Encourage investments in youth employment and mentoring programs.

Voices for Ohio's Children

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VOICES FOR
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FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

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IMPROVE THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE:

- Maintain gains in children's health coverage with the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Reauthorize CHIP at enhanced funding levels beyond 2017.
- Support funding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and other programs that feed low-income children.
- Reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) to support home visiting programs that are proven strategies for strengthening families.
- Improve and strengthen child nutrition and school meal programs to help better meet the needs of Ohio's children.
- Support the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act which allows Title IV-E funds to be used to provide services and supports to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system.

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