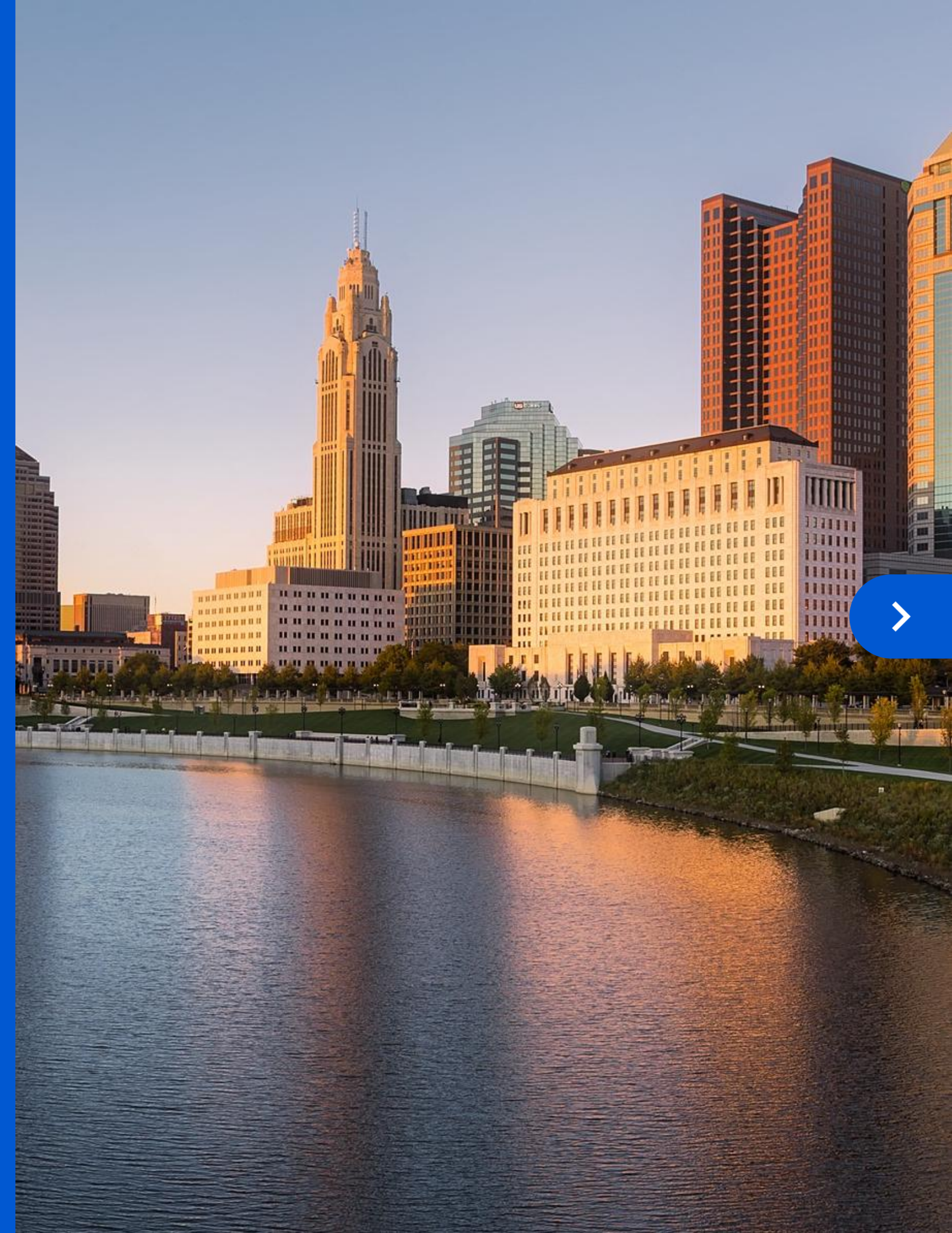


WHAT'S GOING ON IN OHIO?

COUCAN
STATEWIDE DAY OF TRAINING



OUUCAN

Ohio Urban Community Action Network is comprised of nine urban community action agencies across the state.

Our mission is to empower Ohio's urban Community Action Agencies through education, networking, and advocate for policies that alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency.





AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We support programs and policies that prioritizes safe, affordable and lead free housing and reducing the gap in homeownership for underserved buyers.



WORKFORCE/CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We support programs and policies to reduce racial disparities in wages and occupational clustering, programs with pipeline to career fields and companies who invest in people including entrepreneurial and social enterprise ventures.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

We support programs and policies designed to address access, quality and equitable funding for early childhood education and childcare.

Ohio Urban Community Action Network (OUCAN) is a leading resource in breaking the cycle of poverty in urban Ohio, ensuring residents are treated with dignity, and have the resources to prosper in their everyday lives.

Advocacy Agenda: Affordable Housing | Workforce & Career Development | Early Childhood Education and Childcare



What's Going on in Ohio?

- Infant care costs on average \$9,687 a year – Will Petrik, Budget Researcher for Policy Matters Ohio
- New mail-in and voter identification laws effective, March 17.
- In 2021, National Council of Nonprofits reported nearly one quarter (24%) of 1,000 organizations from all 50 states reported vacancies; while Ohio ranks 38th in unemployment rate among other states.
- Reproductive and gender identification rights ranks Ohio as one of the most restrictive states behind the top first 8 states.
- New "permit-less carry" or "constitutional carry" laws for gun owners effective, June 2021.
- Ohio Association of Food Banks' Hope Lane-Gavin, pushing for state funded SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) for older adults.
- Black women in Ohio are 2.2 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes, data shows – Ohio Health Policy Institute.



OUCAN Statewide Day of Training



Lisa Allen

Public Consulting Group

Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)





Lysette Arnold

Groundwork Ohio

Community Engagement Associate





Deidra Reese

**Ohio Unity Coalition/Black
Civic Participation**

Statewide Program and Operations Director





What Must We Do?

What is Advocacy?

- Giving voice on behalf of another.
- Acting in support of a belief or policy.
- The support or recommendation of a policy.

Advocacy is important because:

- Key decision makers react to those credible groups or individuals who most effectively bring their issues to the forefront of the public agenda (or shape the agenda itself).
- Governments have competing interests and concerns (including their own priorities).
- If you don't engage, someone else will.
- You have the power to affect change around your issues (voters, taxpayers).



Advocacy in Action

- Define the Issue.
- Identify possible solutions.
- Develop engagement plan.

Types of Advocacy:

- Attend a townhall meeting.
- Attend rallies
- Provide public testimony/comments.
- Vote on all levels (local, state & national)
- Listen and take notes on who's speaking on various issues.
- Network.
- Email, call or visit your policymaker.
- Become a member of social issue organization.



Meeting with Policymakers

- Do your research. Learn more about the policymaker(s), the issue, committee hearings, etc.
- Be prepared. Bring handouts - policy agenda and/or plan of action.
- Introduce yourself, your organization, the issue and most importantly, be personable.
- Be clear and concise about the meeting. Share your points and policy agenda. Use facts and real-life stories about the issue.
- Be respectful and stick to the issue.
- Say thank you and offer to follow-up.
- Send a thank you note, letter or follow-up information.
- Engage on social media.
- Invite policymakers to your agencies and organization's events.
- Stand out - get creative with t-shirts, relevant props and posters.
- ***Your VOICE. You VOTE!***



Resources



News:

AP/Reuters
PBS/BBC
NewsOne



Podcast:

NPR Politics
Black Info. Network
Code Switch
The Daily
The Weeds



Digital Print:

The Atlantic
Politico
The Root
Washington Post
NYT/WSJ



Legislation:

federal
govtrack.us
state
billtrack50.com

THANK YOU

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Ohio Urban Community
Action Network
Welcomes You to Join

MEN'S FORUM

JUNE 1-2, 202



SAVE THE DATE

WWW.OHIOUCAN.COM