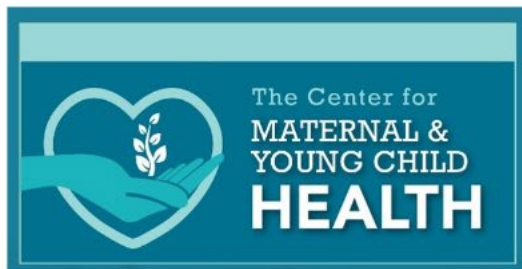


Agenda

- Intro to Groundwork Ohio
- Affordable child care for families
- Governor DeWine's budget proposals
- Groundworks additional budget request
- Family voice
- Q&A

Groundwork Ohio's Mission

Groundwork Ohio is a committed, nonpartisan public-policy research and advocacy organization formed in 2004 that champions high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.



What We Do

We advance quality early childhood systems in Ohio by engaging, educating, and mobilizing diverse stakeholders and strategic partners to promote data-driven and evidence-based early childhood policies.



Affordable Child Care for Families

- *Ensure children are healthy and ready to learn.*
- *Enable more women and families to be fully employed with less disruptions.*
- *Address the expanding and evolving workforce needs of existing, new, and anticipated employers across Ohio.*
- *Support the growth and development of the state's economy, bolstering the critical infrastructure investments today and into the future.*



Governor DeWine's Proposals for Affordable & Accessible Child Care

Child Care Capacity: An investment of \$150 million of State ARPA funds to provide child care scholarships and to increase infant and toddler child care capacity among communities throughout the state.

Preschool: An additional \$46 million per year in Early Childhood Education grants, estimated to expand preschool to an additional 11,525 children under 200% FPL.

Child Care Eligibility: An expansion of the state's publicly funded child care program from 142% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 160%. This would result in more than 15,000 children and families gaining access to care.

New Department: The Governor announced a new Department of Children and Youth to promote efficient and effective delivery of services to Ohio's more than 2.5 million children and their families with the promotion of positive lifelong outcomes for Ohio kids at its core.

Groundwork Ohio's Additional Budget Requests

We are also asking our state legislature to build upon the Governor's strong proposals and support the following measures:

- *Targeted Infant & Toddler Child Care Capacity Building in Child Care Deserts:* A new investment of \$30 million in state funds to increase capacity of local communities, specifically Appalachian and communities with high infant mortality rates, including urban communities to provide safe and developmentally appropriate child care for infants and toddlers.
- *Preschool:* \$23 million per year, in addition the Governor's proposed expansion, in Early Childhood Education grants. These additional funds can support providing additional half-day preschool slots or for the piloting of full day preschool slots.

Family Action Network

Cohort of 65 families from across the state of Ohio



Amplifying Family Voice



Amplifying Family Voice



Hello my name is...
Raya Anderson
 and I want every family to have access to child care.

A little about my family:

I have ___ infant(s) and/or toddler(s) named:

I have ___ preschooler(s) named:

I have 1 school-aged child(ren) named: Amir

Please increase investments in child care during this budget season because:

Check all that apply:

- work full-time and still can't afford child care.
- I work multiple jobs and still can't afford child care.
- If I had access to childcare I would be able to return to work or work more.
- If the income qualification for child care subsidies were higher, I could have taken a raise or a better job to provide more for my family.
- My child needs high-quality child care because this is an important time for them to learn and grow so they are successful later in life.
- Other:

Raya's family resides in Montgomery County.

Family Action Network Policy Feedback



1. What is the biggest issue facing your family right now when you consider these two issues (quality childcare and health)?
 - > Health
 - > My family's biggest issue is health, all though we have Medicaid, it's almost like we are either looked down on or over. People think we are lesser because we have it, or they just flat out won't see us.
 - > Family assistance, case management, and counseling
 - > Affordability
 - > I'm grateful for where I do send my children. They are my top and only choice for quality care in my community for my child's age. I wouldn't send them anywhere else reason being that Unfortunately Many Childcare facilities in Lorain County have Under trained staff to handle children with special needs or behavior issues. Staff is not trained to properly help children emotionally regulate or how to positively discipline. There also is no sensitivity training. When you send your child to daycare you should never have doubts about the care they will receive or if it is up to your standard. Being low income, our children still deserve a quality learning experience. Where they are safe, loved and cared for while we as parents can't be with them. Childcare is unaffordable. To send one child to daycare in Ohio costs upwards of \$600 per month for just one child. I have 5 children. Without government assistance I would not be able to afford childcare and would not be able to work or go to school to provide for my family. Low-income families at times like mine are barely able to make ends meet as it is. We live paycheck to paycheck. I've never even physically even seen the amount of money it would take



Why do we have to continually fight for services that children need to thrive?

How can we provide more resources to communities further away from larger cities?



What keeps you up at night about your own young children?

Is there a time as a caregiver that you felt like nobody was listening to you? What did you do about it if anything?

How can a single mother who makes 200% of the Federal Poverty Level afford to pay for child care?

How can solutions that families and family advocates have suggested be accelerated?

Would you change your mind on an issue after speaking with constituents?



How YOU can be involved



Testimony



Engage
Families



Meet with
Legislators



Open Your
Doors
(Site Visits)



Social
Media



Local
community
events



Lysette Arnold
larnold@groundworkohio.org

Budget Advocacy:
Groundworkohio.org/voices

Join Family Action Network
Groundworkohio.org/familyaction

Groundwork
OHIO



**Thank
You.**

GroundworkOhio.org



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