

INVESTING in Ohio's FUTURE

BUDGET OF THE STATE OF OHIO | FISCAL YEARS 2022-2023

Investing in Ohio's Future: Healthy People

Healthy people are meaningful to Ohio's way of life.

The health of Ohioans and the health of our state's economy are unquestionably connected. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us directly how physical health, mental health, accessibility to wellness services, and healthcare inequities in our communities affect an individual's ability to participate in the marketplace. Healthy people lead to renewed communities and a thriving economy. Our economy cannot rebound without healthy individuals.

For more information about ongoing efforts to address the pandemic, visit [Coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) for information and resources. This site also contains the latest information from the Ohio Public Health Advisory System and the Governor's Responsible RestartOhio Initiative.

Health Surge

Access to quality care is critical to the health of all Ohioans. Still, access is limited by a program or service's ability to reach communities, the conditions of the community, and the trust those communities have with the providers. Governor DeWine's Executive Budget includes a **\$50 million** one-time investment to advance public health equity initiatives to be led by the Ohio Department of Health. The Executive Budget will:

- **Provide \$6 million** to support local health departments in improving Ohio's population health based upon the findings and recommendations in Ohio's 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and to incentivize efficiencies, including shared services or the consolidation of local health districts that formally merge on or after July 1, 2021. The Department of Health may also use a portion of this funding to support pre-merger analysis and planning for districts interested in a merger.
- **Invest \$5.5 million** to improve the health of infants and women. The Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives will support programming of community and local faith-based service providers who provide services and support to pregnant mothers to improve both maternal and infant health outcomes. In addition, the Departments of Health and Medicaid will develop a universal needs assessment for vulnerable women to identify and provide needed health and wrap-around supports.

- **Allocate \$2 million** to the Ohio Department of Health along with other agencies, boards, and commissions, to identify and address social determinants of health which will improve health equity for all Ohioans.
- **Fund \$3.25 million** for emergency department diversion and harm reduction efforts. Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Initiative will support the continuation of the Emergency Department Comprehensive Care Initiative to enhance Ohio's response to the addiction crisis by creating a comprehensive system of care for patients who present in emergency departments with addiction. In addition, the Governor's RecoveryOhio Initiative will support local health providers' harm reduction efforts for accidental drug overdose rates and deaths.
- **Provide \$5 million** for nursing home quality training. The Ohio Department of Aging will incentivize quality-improvement initiatives in or regarding long-term care facilities or connect long-term care facilities with technical assistance programming including training on infection control, elder abuse, or other topics identified by the Department of Health informed by trends in citation data from the Bureau of Nursing Home Survey and Certification.
- **Provide \$2.25 million** for housing for pregnant mothers. The Development Services Agency, along with the Department of Health and the Governor's Children's Initiatives Office, will support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.
- **Allocate \$1 million** for the Technology First Initiative. The Department of Developmental Disabilities will invest in projects to increase technology access for individuals with developmental disabilities through the Technology First Initiative. This initiative strives to use technology to better support individuals with developmental disabilities and ensure opportunities to live, work, and thrive in their communities.
- **Invest \$25 million** to improve public health data. The Departments of Health and Administrative Services will support or procure a comprehensive and integrated technology solution to align data systems and records and streamline timely data to improve and enhance disease reporting and healthcare delivery across the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of more accurate and timely health data to improve community health programs and protect Ohio lives.

Nursing Home Initiatives: Protecting Ohio's Most Vulnerable

Governor DeWine's budget proposes needed reform to further the State of Ohio's ability to regulate and ensure quality in long-term care service delivery. The Governor's plan to make the needed investment into high-quality nursing homes, while at the same time providing an option for low quality providers to exit the business or invest and improve their care models, is one that will provide better quality care and opportunity across the board for Ohioans. In addition to the one-time nursing home reform initiative, the Governor's Executive Budget will:

- **Invest \$50 million** for a nursing home reform initiative in response to the under-utilization of licensed nursing home beds in Ohio. The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Aging and Medicaid, will launch a reform initiative to encourage facilities to voluntarily downsize, move to single patient rooms, and remove the costly excess unused beds from the system. The way the nursing home payment structure in Ohio was designed years ago, Medicaid is required to cover a portion of expenses for unused bed days. According to current Department of Health records, nearly 20% (approximately 11,000) of eligible nursing home beds were vacant prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Ohioans demand more community-based care options, this initiative will help rebalance the services available and improve the quality of care for all Ohioans, regardless of setting.
- **Increase the authority and ability of the Department of Health to protect nursing home patients from dangerous situations.** The Patient Protection proposal would give the Department of Health the authority to swiftly intervene to protect patients in nursing facilities when they determine the health and safety of patients is in jeopardy. If needed, the Department will have the authority to immediately remove patients and relocate them into a safe facility. Protecting patients from dangerously low-quality providers is essential to Governor DeWine's commitment to protect the lives of all vulnerable Ohioans.
- **Launch new training opportunities** through the Department of Aging. The Training and Improving Ohio Nursing Facilities proposal will launch a series of new quality improvement initiatives and a technical assistance programs to improve the quality of care across the board for Ohio nursing homes. Programming will be targeted to address infection control, elder abuse, and other areas that are flagged as prominent during the Department of Health's inspection process.
- **Invest \$440 million** into quality outcome incentives for Medicaid nursing home services. The Quality Driven Reimbursement proposal seeks an increase of \$100 million into a new payment formula that moves to reward nursing homes for providing high-quality care, based on meaningful outcome-driven industry leading metrics. The Department of Medicaid will work in collaboration with a joint committee and seek input from experts across multiple agencies, providers, and senior advocates to ensure a robust and high-quality incentive-based payment structure. Additionally, to encourage high quality oversight, recipients will be required to ensure that key nursing home staff such as an administrator, medical director, nursing director, and quality improvement director reside in and work in the state of Ohio.

Health Programs

As we move through the pandemic and into economic recovery, it is crucial that we build on our momentum in priority health programs to ensure that Ohio children grow up healthy, and that our adults are strong and job-ready. The Executive Budget will:

- **Increase funding for Help Me Grow**, Ohio's evidenced-based home visiting program serving more than 8,200 families, encourages early prenatal and well-baby care, as well as parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development of children. The Executive Budget invests an additional \$1.9 million each fiscal year - for a total investment of **\$41.2 million** in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 - allowing the Ohio Department of Health to increase home visiting services for at-risk, expectant mothers, and families of young children at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Home visiting is proven to reduce infant mortality and promote child development and school readiness.
- **Continue the lead hazard control programs**, to make Ohio's homes and communities lead-safe. The Ohio Department of Health will conduct lead hazard control and abatement services on hundreds of Ohio homes, conduct public outreach and education, and increase the number of lead hazard workers through the Lead Worker/Contractor Licensure Repayment Program. A new, statewide Lead-Safe Housing Fund will provide competitive grants to Ohio communities to abate lead hazards in their housing stock, promoting revitalized, renewed communities.
- **Support the FQHC Primary Care Workforce Initiative**, which addresses the need for more qualified health professionals by providing medical, dental, behavioral health, advanced practice nursing, and physician assistant students with clinical rotations in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) that are recognized as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH). Funds are distributed to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC).
- **Address chronic disease and health equity** through increased awareness and action in all Ohio Department of Health programs and initiatives.

Continuing RecoveryOhio

RecoveryOhio is the state's initiative to address the crisis of substance use disorders and support the mental health and well-being of Ohio's citizens. The goals of the initiative are to create a system to help make treatment available to Ohioans in need, provide support services for those in recovery and their families, offer direction for the state's prevention and education efforts. These executive budget highlights underscore the comprehensive, collaborative work that is happening across Ohio's state agencies, boards, and commissions. The investment from the Executive Budget will:

- **Expand early identification programs** to increase screening, provide early intervention, and connect people to treatment.
- **Support forensic services** to reduce the stress on the hospital and criminal justice systems that interact with people with serious mental illnesses and expand treatment capacity for those incarcerated with critical mental illnesses by providing access to the medicine they need.

- **Support programs to address disparities and disproportionate negative impacts on minority, poor, and underserved populations**, including African Americans, Hispanics and Latinos, immigrant populations, refugee and traumatized populations, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, disabled, veterans, elderly, and other special communities.
- **Continue the support of crisis services** to meet the mental health and addiction needs of children, youth, families, and adults.
- **Expand access to the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation** program for all Ohioans. The program provides and promotes tobacco control activities that support the three primary objectives of: 1) decreasing the initiation of tobacco use, including e-cigarettes and vaping products; 2) increasing quitting of tobacco; and 3) protecting Ohioans from exposure to secondhand smoke. Furthermore, the Ohio Department of Health's My Life, My Quit youth-centered quit program also seeks to educate Ohio youths of the risks of the vaping/e-cigarette epidemic.
- **Fund the expansion of Specialized Dockets** with new courts that seek to connect individuals with support services around mental health, substance abuse, trauma care, and other service to better the individual's wellbeing. There are currently 183 specialized court dockets across 57 counties, serving more than 8,000 Ohioans, seeking to ensure public safety by identifying individuals with mental health needs involved in the criminal justice system and supporting them via diversion or linkage to trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and consumer-directed services and supports when appropriate.

Mental Health Expansions

People with serious mental health issues often interact with multiple systems, including health care, behavioral health, human services, homeless services, and criminal justice. An expanded investment in multi-system adult collaboration will help connect these individuals to needed care, recovery supports, stable housing, and positive community participation. This **\$11 million** to strengthen cross-system collaboration and expand access to services and supports that promote continued stability and recovery outside of institutions for adults with serious mental illness.

OHMHAS & ODRC Partnership

Incarcerated Ohioans struggling with substance use disorders need access to reliable resources for recovery. Sixty-seven percent of incarcerated people have a moderate or severe need for recovery services. Almost 23 percent of incarcerated people are on the mental health caseload; and 10.2 percent with a serious mental illness. This investment will expand access to treatment within Ohio's correctional facilities, including counseling, peer support, technology, and medication. Recovery services provided during incarceration significantly increase the likelihood that these individuals become productive members of society when released.

K-12 Student Wellness

One of our most disrupted populations due to the pandemic are our school children. The pandemic has further strained the health, mental wellbeing, and academic success of these students. The Executive Budget includes **\$1.1 billion** to continue support for Student Wellness and Success programs, which fund partnerships between schools and community organizations to develop programs that meet the social and emotional needs of students.

A recent study released by the Ohio Department of Education called *Student Wellness and Success Fund Survey Data Report*, released in December 2020, found schools and districts implementing more than 3,000 initiatives, serving over 1 million Ohio students. More than one in four initiatives was focused on mental health services, with nearly two-thirds of districts implementing or planning an initiative in this category. Almost one in seven initiatives was focused on physical health services across more than one-third of districts.

Medicaid Highlights

Medicaid serves many vulnerable Ohioans. The Department of Medicaid and its priority programs to meet Ohioans' needs, the Executive Budget invests **\$28.4 billion** for Fiscal Year 2022 and **\$29.7 billion** for Fiscal Year 2023. It is crucial that this safety net program incentivize self-sufficiency. Just prior to the onset of the pandemic, Ohio's Medicaid work requirement had been approved by federal regulators; however, current federal law prohibits the state from implementing the requirement during the ongoing public health emergency. To continue our momentum, the Executive Budget includes a voluntary Medicaid work program to bridge the gap until the new work requirements can be implemented. Additionally, the Executive Budget will:

- **Support the re-procurement of Ohio's managed care system** to improve wellness and health outcomes while emphasizing a personalized care experience. This managed care system will improve care for children with complex behavioral needs, and it will support providers in better patient care while increasing program transparency and accountability.
- **Increase access to and care for Medicaid members** with significant behavioral health needs through continued funding of Medicaid's Behavioral Health Care Coordination program.
- **Expand access to personalized care** through Medicaid's Emergency Telehealth program, which made access to care easier and more flexible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through partnerships with the Governor's office, Ohio agencies, managed care plans, providers, and consumers, this budget seeks to expand telehealth services for medical, clinical, and behavioral health, ease technology restrictions on patient-physician interaction to deliver telehealth services, reduce prior authorization

requirements, enhance pharmacy benefits for the consumer and the pharmacy, and enable nursing home and congregate care members to access telehealth service with no prior authorization.

- **Prevent custody relinquishment of multi-system youth children** with an additional \$5 million per Fiscal Year. Multi-system youth utilize various services beyond public children's service agencies (PCSA) such as mental and behavioral health and health care.

