

INVESTING in Ohio's FUTURE

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

Investing in Ohio's Future: Thriving Economy

A thriving economy is how Ohioans begin anew in 2021 and beyond.

Ohio's economy was strong before the onset of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and Ohio remains above the national average on Moody's Analytics/CNN's Back-to-Normal Index and on the path to recovery. The virus has significantly impacted certain sectors of the economy.

Ohioans are resilient. We are pioneers, and we are innovators. We see opportunity in the challenge, and this Executive Budget plan will assist Ohioans by investing in our communities, businesses, and economies. Governor DeWine's Executive Budget includes a \$1 Billion **Investing in Ohio Initiative**, an aggressive plan to accelerate economic growth and ensuring economic vitality. By making targeted investments, we can address disparities, build prosperity, and set Ohio on the road to a bright future.

Investing in Ohio by Sustaining Our Businesses

Recognizing that some sectors – such as entertainment, hospitality, and new businesses – have been hit especially hard by the pandemic, the Executive Budget invests \$460 million to help these entities cover costs and keep their doors open. The Executive Budget will:

- Provide funding for grants of up to **\$30,000 to assist bars and restaurants** that have been severely impacted by the pandemic.
- Assist **15,000 small businesses by providing \$10,000** grants to the qualified Small Business Relief Grant applicants who have yet to receive assistance through the state's share of the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- Provide funding for grants up to **\$30,000 to support lodging industry businesses** that have seen a significant occupancy reduction during the pandemic.
- Provide funding for grants up to **\$30,000 to support indoor entertainment venues** that have been most impacted by the pandemic, including movie theaters, bowling alleys, trampoline parks, and privately-owned museums.
- Assist **2,000 new businesses across the state** that opened their doors between the beginning of January and the end of March 2020 with grants of up to \$10,000 each.

These critical grants will help our newest entrepreneurs make it through this challenging time.

Investing in Ohio by Enhancing our Communities

Through a nearly half-billion-dollar investment, we are supporting key infrastructure projects and the development and adoption of a more robust broadband network in communities throughout the state. The Executive Budget will:

- **Invest \$250 million** to provide grants to expand broadband access throughout Ohio, with the goal of ensuring that all households have the basic connectivity necessary to support children's homework, a job search, or online training.
- **Invest \$200 million** to provide up to **\$2.5 million** in grants to pay for infrastructure projects in communities.

Investing in Ohio by Telling Ohio's Story

Whether looking for a place to call home, receive an education, take a vacation, or start or advance your career, we want people living in and outside of Ohio to know they will find their future here. This budget will invest **\$50 million** in a national marketing campaign to drive 3 billion impressions across broadcast tv, connected tv, digital and social media, paid search, and limited radio and print advertisements promoting Ohio as the ideal place to live, learn, work, and play.

Investing in Ohio by Growing a Skilled Workforce

We are investing in programs to help tens of thousands of Ohioans upskill and find success in new careers and ensure businesses can access the talent needed in today's economy. While assisting Ohioans in accessing high-demand, quality-wage careers, these initiatives also ensure businesses have access to the talent needed in today's economy and make targeted workforce investments in rural and urban parts of the state. The Executive Budget will:

- **Fund an additional 5,000 technology-focused credentials** through the TechCred Program (including the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program) in Fiscal Year 2021 (\$5 million) and an additional 45,000 credentialed individuals in the next biennium (**\$25 million** in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023).
- **Invest \$15 million** to support targeted workforce investments in economically distressed rural and urban communities. This program partners with businesses, communities, organizations, and educational institutions throughout Ohio to establish and expand programs that help Ohioans reskill and pursue new, in-demand employment opportunities.

- **Invest \$16 million** with the goal of helping high school students earn 70,000 workforce credentials each year. An additional \$25 million investment is recommended to aid schools in offering new and high-demand credentials to students.
- **Expand Ohio to Work** to help Ohioans facing job loss connect with a career coach, supportive services, and rapid re-training to become employed in an in-demand job.
- **Fund the Industry Sector Partnership Grant** to support partnerships among business, schools, training providers, and community leaders, strengthening the local workforce.
- **Continue** to support and expand successful programs like the Export Internship, Diversity & Inclusion Internship, and Choose Ohio First. The Export Internship and the Diversity and Inclusion Internship programs will provide opportunities to 690 individuals across the biennium. Choose Ohio First will provide 2,000 new scholarships in addition to the 3,375 total scholarships in the 2019-2020 Academic Year.
- **Guarantee** that every student in Ohio has access to computer science education.

Transforming the Unemployment Insurance System

Ohio's unemployment insurance system needs to be modernized to better serve Ohioans. In the short term, Ohio will use federal funds to administer and provide additional call center support for Ohioans who receive unemployment insurance benefits and pandemic unemployment assistance through this crisis. The Executive Budget will invest more than **\$10 million** to modernize the unemployment insurance tax, benefits, and appeals systems to allow Ohio Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to provide a more efficient administration of the unemployment insurance program in the future.

Expanding Access to Affordable Childcare

The Executive Budget will ease the burden on low-income working parents and caregivers who struggle to provide adequate childcare. By raising family initial income eligibility requirements from 130 percent to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 150 percent FPL for special needs children, more children will receive the care, supervision, and developmental opportunities they need.

Supporting K-12 Learning

As Ohio recovers from the pandemic, we must catch up kids who were left behind during school closures and continue to support students with the most need. Investing in children allows us to strengthen our future workforce and economy. In the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 budget recommendation, the Ohio Department of Education will disburse more than **\$13.1 billion** to schools and districts across the state to support Ohio's 1.7 million schoolchildren. This

investment includes **\$1.1 billion** in Student Wellness and Success Funds, adding \$100 million to this program in each year, to help schools and districts continue partnerships with local organizations for programming to meet students' social and emotional needs. Additionally, \$125 million in foundation funding to schools and districts will also be restored in Fiscal Years 2022-2023.

The Executive Budget also will appropriate over **\$2 billion** of additional federal funding provided in the recent stimulus package to give kids access to the learning opportunities they have missed out on because of the pandemic. To help kids catch up, schools and districts will develop extended learning and learning recovery plans. Schools and districts will partner with community organizations to deliver extended learning and activities to targeted student populations.

Additionally, \$1.6 billion in federal funding will support child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch, National School Breakfast, and Child and Adult Food. These programs reimburse schools, childcare centers, after-school programs, and adult day centers for providing nutritious meals and snacks that contribute to the health and wellness of children, older adults, and chronically disabled persons.

The recommended Fiscal Years 2022-2023 funding levels allow the Department to leverage state and federal funds to promote high-quality professional development and school improvement initiatives. This includes targeted support for students with disabilities, literacy improvement, social and emotional learning, and promoting the use of data to improve learning for all students. The budget promotes local partnerships, which are essential to student success and school improvement.

To encourage and identify high-quality charter schools, the Executive Budget will increase the Quality Community School Support Fund to **\$54 million** per year. To access these funds, charter schools must meet several academic, good-standing, and financial criteria set forth by the Department. These funds will help successful charter schools build the capacity to serve more Ohio students.

Prioritizing Higher Education and Student Scholarship Programs

Ohio prioritizes access to a quality college education for our disadvantaged students to create more opportunities to succeed. The cost of higher education is a barrier to many students to obtain a degree and the skills necessary to compete in today's fast-paced economy. The Executive Budget will:

- **Raise the per-student Ohio College Opportunity Grant award by \$500** over the biennium to make college more affordable for students with financial need.
- **Provide at least 2,000 new scholarships** through the Choose Ohio First scholarship program, which helps students become skilled in high-demand areas and prioritizes awards for underrepresented populations enrolled in the critical STEMM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine.
- Continue to **support Ohio's wide range of colleges and universities** throughout the state by increasing our investment in the State Share of Instruction institutional subsidy by 1.8 percent over the biennium to maintain quality and provide support services.

