2014-15 Budget Goals that Strengthen Ohio

1 Strengthen Ohio with healthy communities.
Healthy citizens build strong communities, and healthy workers strengthen Ohio’s economy. A healthy, productive, and educated workforce is vital to position Ohio as a top tier business location. Our public policies can make Ohioans healthier and more competitive. By investing in public services that make Ohio’s workforce healthier and more competitive, our economy is strengthened and Ohio thrives.

Opportunities to build healthy communities in the 2014-15 state budget

- **Medicaid Expansion**: Expand Medicaid eligibility to all Ohioans with income up to 138% of the federal poverty level to extend health coverage to 275,000 Ohioans.
- **Food and Nutrition**: Invest $34 million over the 2014-2015 biennial budget ($17 million per year) to support the purchase of food and grocery products, and distribution of this food through the 12 foodbanks, representing all of Ohio’s 88 counties and over 3,300 local agencies.
- **Long Term Care**: Spend 50% of Long Term Care funds on home and community based services by 2015 to keep our seniors and people with disabilities living in the settings they prefer,
- **Community Behavioral Health**: Invest in trauma-focused, family-centered community based behavioral health services. The state investment should include prevention, treatment, and recovery and social supports to improve access to services for all Ohioans.

2 Make Ohio more competitive with great public services.
Ohio’s communities are stronger when everyone can participate in our economy and democracy. Human services stabilize families so they can compete in the 21st century economy. If people can’t maintain what economists call “Basic Spending” levels – on things like food, rent, health care, and transportation – then the entire economy suffers. By investing in public services that make Ohio’s workforce more competitive, our economy is strengthened and Ohio thrives.

Opportunities to make Ohioans competitive in the 2014-15 state budget

- **Early Care & Education**: Expand the number of children participating in early childhood programs, while striving toward the quality improvement goals of the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge.
- **Stable Housing**: Invest $106 million over the 2014-15 budget in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund to ensure that children and families have the housing security necessary to achieve.
Opportunities to make Ohioans competitive (continued)

- **Child Welfare**: Develop a statewide strategy to screen, prevent and treat child trauma. The strategy should offer clinical training for child welfare and behavioral health providers to expand evidence-based treatment programs.
- **Family Policy**: Maintain an investment of $6.2 million for service coordination of family services in all 88 counties to promote strong families and the development of healthy children.

Create more and better jobs for Ohioans.

Ohio’s economy is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in our economy. Good jobs and career opportunities for all Ohioans are critical to our state’s success. Health and social services are expected to grow more than any other sector in the next five years, bringing thousands of new jobs to Ohio. With new economic development policy we can strengthen our workforce and ensure that every community has jobs that provide opportunity for all.

Opportunities for job growth in the 2014-15 state budget

- **Community Employment**: Invest in Regional Industry Sector Partnerships to move 10,000 Ohioans through quality, employer-driven training for in-demand jobs.
- **Employment for People with Disabilities**: Ensure that all people with disabilities are included in new employment initiatives, starting with the expansion of “Employment First” beyond Ohioans with developmental disabilities.
- **Direct Service Workforce**: Invest in workforce incentives and training programs to attract and retain skilled workers in direct service across the healthcare industry, including long term care, developmental and physical disabilities, behavioral health, and dental. Provider payment reform should support competitive salaries and benefits to retain proficient workers.
- **Team Based Health Care**: Create education and training policies supported by investment and payment reform to develop a health care workforce skilled in team based health care delivery models.
- **Doctor Shortages**: Transition $100 million in Graduate Medical Education funds to target primary care and psychiatry. The funds should support incentives (scholarships, internships, field placements, residency positions) in areas where there are known professional health care shortages.

When Ohio’s economy is strong everybody benefits.
Make Ohio More Competitive with Great Public Services

Ohio’s communities are stronger when everyone can participate in our economy and democracy. Human services stabilize families so they can compete in the 21st century economy. If people can’t maintain what economists call “Basic Spending” levels – on things like food, rent, health care, and transportation – then the entire economy suffers. By investing in public services that make Ohio’s workforce more competitive, our economy is strengthened and Ohio thrives.

1 Early Care & Education

Research tells us that high-quality early childhood supports, such as home visiting and early education, are some of the most transformative strategies for helping children and families succeed. High-quality early learning and development helps ensure that children enter school ready to learn. To find out how advocates are strengthening Ohio’s economy by building a better early care and education system, go to www.groundworkohio.org.

2 Stable Housing

Housing is the basis for opportunity. Stable housing strengthens the family foundation. It gives children the stability to learn and excel, and adults the ability to maintain employment. Stable housing strengthens the economy by improving living conditions and neighborhoods. Every $10 million dollars invested in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund becomes $90 million in housing construction across Ohio, as it leverages federal and private resources, rehabilitates vacant and abandoned properties, and improves communities. To learn more, visit www.cohhio.org.

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Ohio’s child welfare system ensures our children and youth have a safe and permanent family to become healthy, educated and competitive adults. It provides services to protect children, nurture families and strengthen communities. Without proper early intervention and treatment services for things like trauma and other behavioral health issues, our children do not do well in school, may drop out and lack the skills to be productive citizens in our communities. To learn more, visit www.pcsao.org or www.oacca.org.

Family-centered programs and services support raising healthy, well-developed children and empower families so they can contribute to Ohio’s economy. To find out more about how the Family and Children First Councils strengthen the economy in Ohio, visit www.fcf.ohio.gov.

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**1 Medicaid Expansion**

By expanding Medicaid in Ohio, 275,000 additional Ohioans will have access to affordable care. Medicaid expansion will not only improve the health outcomes of hundreds of thousands of children and working adults, but will also boost the economy and create jobs. To learn more about Medicaid and how the Medicaid expansion will strengthen Ohio’s economy, visit [www.uhcanohio.org](http://www.uhcanohio.org).

**2 Food and Nutrition Assistance**

Access to food can stabilize struggling families, support Ohio workers, and stimulate Ohio’s economy. Hungry children can’t learn and hungry adults can’t compete for jobs. The Ohio Association Foodbanks leveraged the state’s investment of $14.5 million this year to distribute over 40 million pounds of shelf-stable food and fresh fruits and vegetables through 12 foodbanks and 3,300 member charities. To find out more, visit [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).

Ohio’s economy is stronger when health care is affordable and accessible. **When Ohio’s economy is strong everybody benefits.**
Behavioral health services strengthen Ohio’s economy and are essential for a healthy, productive workforce, successful schools, family stability, and building attractive communities. Behavioral health services effectively address both acute and chronic mental health and substance use disorders to help people have full, productive lives and live independently within the community. To learn more about how behavioral health services strengthen Ohio, visit www.mentalhealthadvocacy.org, www.OACBHA.org, and www.theohiocouncil.org.

Seniors and people with disabilities prefer home and community services, where they can remain independent, connected to their community, and avoid costly nursing facilities and institutions. Ohio can save $3,333 per person per month for every individual receiving home and community services instead of nursing facility services. Having just 2,500 people at home instead of in a nursing facility can save more than $100 million per year. Home and community care is good for Ohio’s economy and it is the most preferred long term services and supports option. For more info, visit www.faircareohio.org.

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Create More & Better Jobs for Ohioans

Ohio’s economy is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in our economy. Good jobs and career opportunities for all Ohioans are critical to our state’s success. Health and social services are expected to grow more than any other sector in the next five years, bringing thousands of new jobs to Ohio. With new economic development policy we can strengthen our workforce and ensure that every community has jobs that provide opportunity for all.

1 Community Employment

When we build the skills of workers, meet employer skill needs, and strengthen the workforce, Ohio’s economy is stronger. More work supports need to be developed to support community employment for all people in all job sectors. Work supports include assisting with education and job training, child care, personal care services, transportation, and more. To learn more about how to ensure opportunity and prosperity for Ohio families through workforce development, visit www.ojfsda.com.

2 Employment Supports for People with Disabilities

Creating meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities strengthens Ohio’s economy. The Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities lets Ohioans with disabilities build self-sufficiency through employment without losing the health care coverage they depend on. A record 8,400 people with a median age of 45 years are served by this program. For more information about services for people with disabilities, visit www.ohioolmstead.org.

Ohio’s economy is stronger when everyone has access to opportunity.

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Create More & Better Jobs for Ohioans

3 Direct Service Workforce

Invest in workforce incentives and training programs to attract and retain skilled workers in direct service across the healthcare industry, including long term care, developmental and physical disabilities, behavioral health, and dental. In 2011, more than 38,000 people were on waiting lists for developmental disability services, and direct support staff turnover was at 40 percent. Provider payment reform should support competitive salaries and benefits to retain proficient workers. To learn more about how investments in the direct service workforce strengthen Ohio, visit www.opra.org.

4 Team Based Health Care & Doctor Shortages

Create education and training policies supported by investment and payment reform to develop a health care workforce skilled in team based health care delivery.

Transition $100 million in Graduate Medical Education funds to target primary care and psychiatry. The funds should support incentives (scholarships, internships, field placements, residency positions) in areas where there are known professional health care shortages.

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Advocates for Ohio’s Future is a statewide coalition of over 400 local and statewide organizations that works to maintain vital public services—health, human services, and early care & education—to strengthen families and communities in Ohio.