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.

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.

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.
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.

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

When Ohio’s economy is strong everybody benefits.

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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.