



OhioSPEAKS

ADVOCATES FOR OHIO'S FUTURE

WHAT IS OHIOSPEAKS ?

OhioSPEAKS is a collaborative project to collect and highlight stories that illustrate the impact of programs that support Ohio's most vulnerable children, families, seniors and people with disabilities. Advocates for Ohio's Future and a number of coalition partners want to hear from service providers, community leaders, and people who are struggling to make ends meet to **put a human face on budget cuts**. OhioSPEAKS will also reach out to Ohioans for **stories that highlight ways that public programs have built shared prosperity**. The stories will be used to educate lawmakers, the media and the public about the value of human needs programs.

WHO CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE OHIOSPEAKS PROJECT?

We welcome short video clips or written statements from anyone who can speak to the **benefit and success of state and federal programs**, including program participants, social service providers, and community, faith, or business leaders. We ask that you speak or write about the value of any program that is made possible by public funding (state and national), policy changes to programs such as SNAP (Food Assistance/food stamps) and other nutrition assistance benefits, subsidized job programs, child care, Help Me Grow, Head Start, the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, job training, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, homelessness prevention efforts, etc.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR STORY SUBMISSION?

With each submission, Advocates for Ohio's Future and coalition members ask that the following information be captured: *Note—please keep your story to 300 words or less or a video that is less than 2 minutes*

- **Who:** Who you are—i.e. parent, student, business owner, provider, job seeker, community leader, etc.
- **Where:** What city and county do you live in within Ohio?
- **What:** What are the programs that you value—i.e. SNAP, Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Care, etc.
- **How:** Specific examples of how the program has helped, such as:
 - In my county/state, the TANF Emergency Fund created 26,000 jobs. Because of the program, I was able to hire...
 - After receiving the earned income tax credit, I was able to...
 - If it were not for the child care assistance I received, I would not have been able to keep my job...
- **Why:** Why are these programs important to you and your community? How would cuts to these programs affect you and your community?

[Click here for more story submission tips!](#)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH SUBMITTED STORIES?

Selected stories are featured online and in an interactive, county-by-county map of Ohio paired with data to illustrate the value of health and human services. [View the stories online here.](#)

Advocates for Ohio's Future and our partner organizations will also use these stories to **educate lawmakers, the media and the public about the value and impact of vital human needs programs**. The stories will give a voice to vulnerable Ohioans.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in volunteering, or getting your community or organization more involved with OhioSPEAKS, please contact Will Petrik at wpetrik@advocatesforohio.org or 614-602-2464. We'd love to hear your story!

SUBMIT YOUR STORY TODAY
<http://go.advocatesforohio.org/ohio-speaks>