



# Make Ohioans More Competitive Invest in Programs that Support Work

The harsh reality for too many workers is that a job does not mean a living. While Ohio's families are bringing in less money, the costs to support a family have gone up. While overall unemployment has fallen in the past few years, there is an economic trend toward more low-wage, part-time and temporary jobs. By ensuring low income Ohioans have the appropriate education and skills to be competitive in the new economy and the necessary work supports to bridge the gap between what they earn and what they need we make Ohio's workforce more competitive.

## 1 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)



Founded in 1975, the federal EITC is our nation's most effective anti-poverty program. The program has traditionally had bipartisan support and rewards work because only families with earned income can claim the credit. 939,000 Ohioans get the federal EITC, which delivers \$2.3 million to Ohio's families and communities. A **20% refundable state EITC with no cap** would mean one third of low income Ohioans earning between \$21,000-\$39,000 would receive a credit, with an average savings of \$620. 38% of the poorest Ohioans with incomes under \$21,000 would receive an average credit of about \$451 under the reformed EITC.

## 2 SNAP Employment & Training

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) supports employment and training activities to increase self-sufficiency for SNAP participants. SNAP E&T can expand opportunities for low income Ohioans to enhance their skills, credentials, careers, and ultimately, their families' financial well-being. By using existing funds in the Ohio College Opportunity Grant to **expand the program to community colleges**, more participants will have the opportunity to be trained for skilled jobs that are in demand in their local labor markets.



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## 3 Child Care



The largest categories for case closure in public child care is due to job loss as today's volatile job market often makes it difficult - if not impossible - for parents to find work within the allowed 30 to 90 day timeframe. By increasing access to affordable child care with **12-month continuous eligibility and initial eligibility set at 200% of the federal poverty level**, unforeseen changes in a parents' employment status will not derail a child's access to high quality child care. Nor would a parent's job search or education be hindered as a result of terminated child care.

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Advocates for Ohio's Future is a nonpartisan coalition of over 485 local and statewide organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.