



2022 Budget Training Academy: Setting Budget Priorities

September 21, 2022

Kelsey Bergfeld, Advocates for Ohio's Future

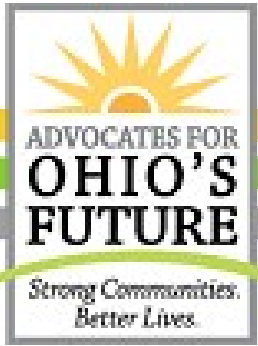
Nick Bates, One Ohio Now

Gina Wilt, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

Jordan Ballinger, Disability Rights Ohio and the HCBS Coalition

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Katherine Ungar, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio and the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition



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Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 500 state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that **all** Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.



AOF Membership

Steering Committee

Access to physical and behavioral health care

Nutrition Support

Safe and affordable housing

Services for older adults and people with disabilities

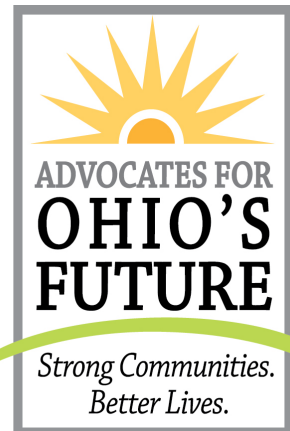
Expanded home and community based services

Early childhood care and education

Workforce development

Broadband access and affordability

Transportation



AOF Membership

Steering Committee 2022

Co-Chairs

Tara Britton
The Center for Community Solutions

Darold Johnson
Ohio Federation of Teachers

Executive Committee

Teresa Lampl
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health &
Family Service Providers
Communications Committee Chair

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt
Ohio Association of
Foodbanks
*Finance & Development
Committee Chair*

Susan Jagers
Ohio Poverty Law Center
*Public Policy
Committee Chair*

Gina Wilt
Coalition on Homelessness and
Housing in Ohio
At-Large

Will Petrik
Policy Matters Ohio
At-Large

Tracy Najerá
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
At-Large



ADVOCATES FOR
**OHIO'S
FUTURE**

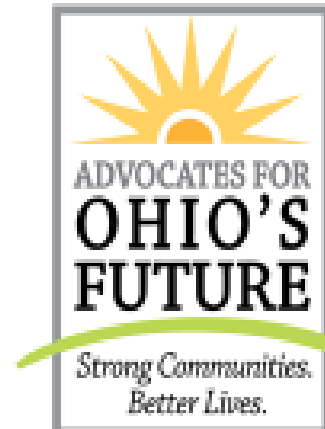
*Strong Communities.
Better Lives.*

AOF 2021-22 Priorities & Policy Work

- **Maintain Medicaid eligibility without barriers or cuts so that Ohioans seeking health care and mental health and addiction treatment can continue to access vital services**
- **Increase access and affordability of broadband and improve digital literacy**
- **Support the immediate, emergency needs of low-income children and families by investing in the core components of the TANF program including emergency assistance, work supports (PRC), food, housing, income-support, and child care**

Work Groups

- TANF
- Broadband
- Work & Wages
- Equity



Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind

Since January 2020, a number of COVID-related enhanced benefits, waivers and program flexibilities have held families together, helped keep them safe and supported their most basic needs, at a time when an unprecedented pandemic raged outside their homes and made going to work a health risk.

When the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) expires (currently set for **October 13, 2022**, expected to be renewed until mid-January 2023), these flexibilities and expansions will end causing a **COVID Cliff**, where families still fighting to gain stability will face the end of enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, the redetermination of the full Medicaid caseload for the first time in over two years, resumed federal student loan payments, and more.

How can we ensure state, local agencies, providers, and impacted Ohioans are prepared for the PHE unwind and mitigate the impact of the COVID Cliff?

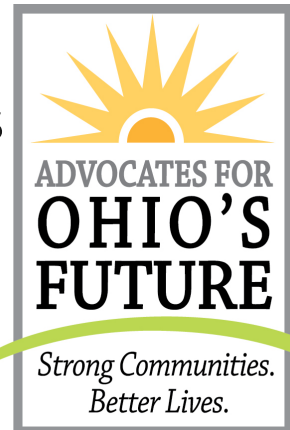


Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition

AOF convened a new coalition, the Ohio COVID Recovery Coalition, to analyze and form recommendations for state agencies and counties to “unwind” emergency flexibilities and other policies across assistance programs granted by the federal government to enhance states’ ability to respond to the crisis expeditiously and protect and serve the general public.

Objectives

- Identify all waivers/flexibilities in place across federal/state policies intended to provide additional assistance during public health emergency
- Confirm timeline of expirations-including any state actions needed
- What flexibilities could/should be made permanent (in some way, full or partial)
- Help state agencies connect people with assistance-inform recipients of future changes
- Develop recommendations for state agencies



Potential Impacts



INDUCED RECESSION

If disenrollment is accelerated, Ohio Will lose 51.5k jobs including 30.5k outside of healthcare, reducing Gross State Product by \$5.2B



INCREASED GOVT EXPENSE

County governments have to make determinations and are facing staffing challenges, numerous eligibility systems and threat of penalties



LEGAL RISK

Due process and discrimination potential is significant. Additionally, PERM may be impacted, risking billions in clawback from state and county governments



DISENROLLEMENT

Up to 440k disenrolled. Increased likelihood of hospitalization.

Ohio Medicaid Member Contact Information Update

Member Transition & Enrollment

The most important action for Ohio Medicaid members right now is to update their contact information to make sure they do not miss any information about the next generation of Ohio Medicaid

Members Have Three Options to Update Their Contact Information



Call (844) 640-6446. After selecting the option for their preferred language, they should select option 2 and will be prompted to enter their zip code

Individuals with an existing Self-Service Portal (SSP) account can **report changes online at <https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov>**. After logging in, they should click the Access my Benefits tile, then click Report a Change to my Case from the drop down and follow the prompts

Contact their County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS). Ohio Medicaid members can find their CDJFS by viewing the County Directory at https://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.stm

Contact Information Includes:

- Name
- Residential Address
- Mailing Address (if different than residential address)
- Phone Number (cell and landline, if applicable)
- Email Address

COVID Cliff

Nutrition

- SNAP
 - Higher base benefits
 - Emergency allotments
 - Online purchasing
 - Process & policy waivers
- WIC
 - Increased voucher value
- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
 - School age benefit
 - “Child care” benefit



COVID Cliff

SNAP Emergency Allotments

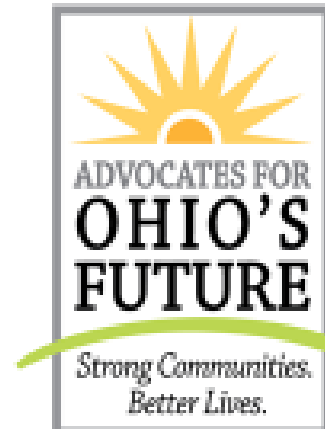
Both a federal and state declaration must be in effect for states to continue issuing SNAP EAs.

- While Ohio's public health emergency declaration was ended by the General Assembly last summer, an administrative economic declaration of disaster has remained to maintain SNAP EAs

756,156 Ohio Households receiving EAs

Average ~\$80 per person, per month

\$120 million in SNAP EAs issued per month



1 Parent Works Full Time at Minimum Wage



Single Parent
1 Child

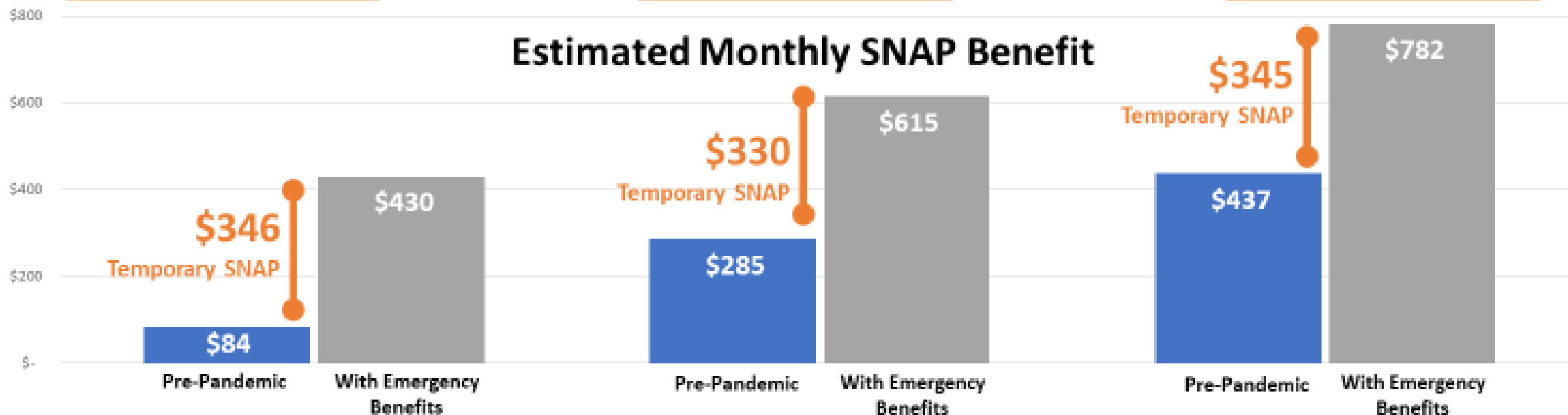


Single Parent
2 Children



Married Couple
2 Children

Estimated Monthly SNAP Benefit





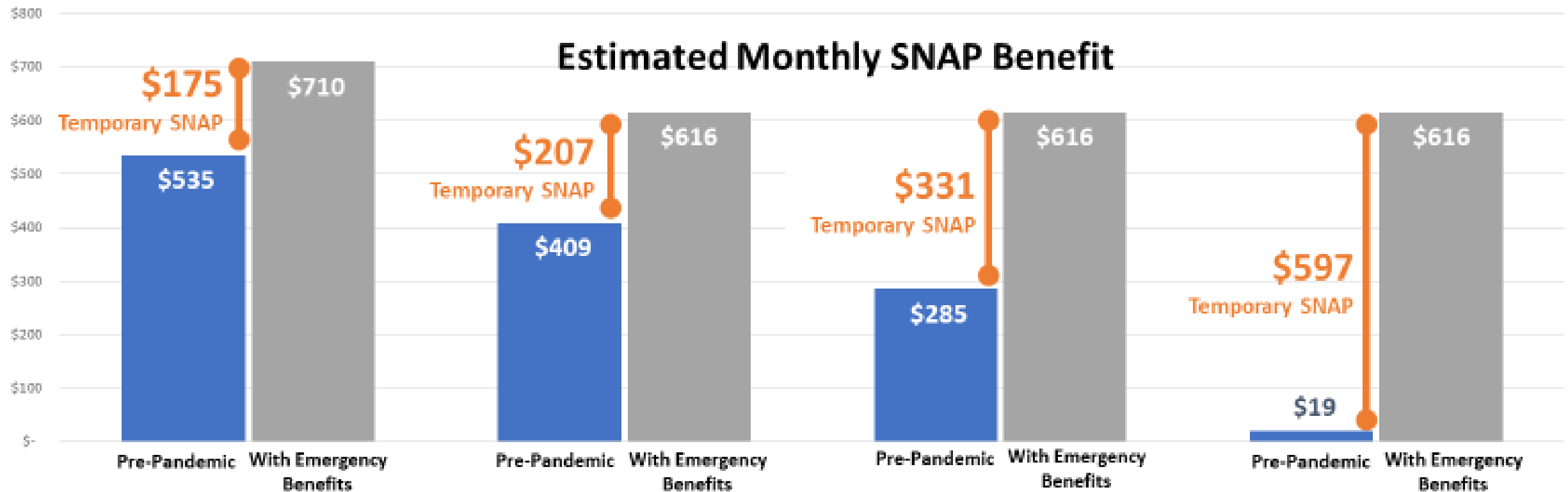
Family of 3: Single Parent, 2 Children

No Earned Income
(disabled child)

Works Part Time
(TANF Eligible)

Works Full Time,
Minimum Wage

Works Full Time,
129% FPL



Older Adult Households



Older Adult



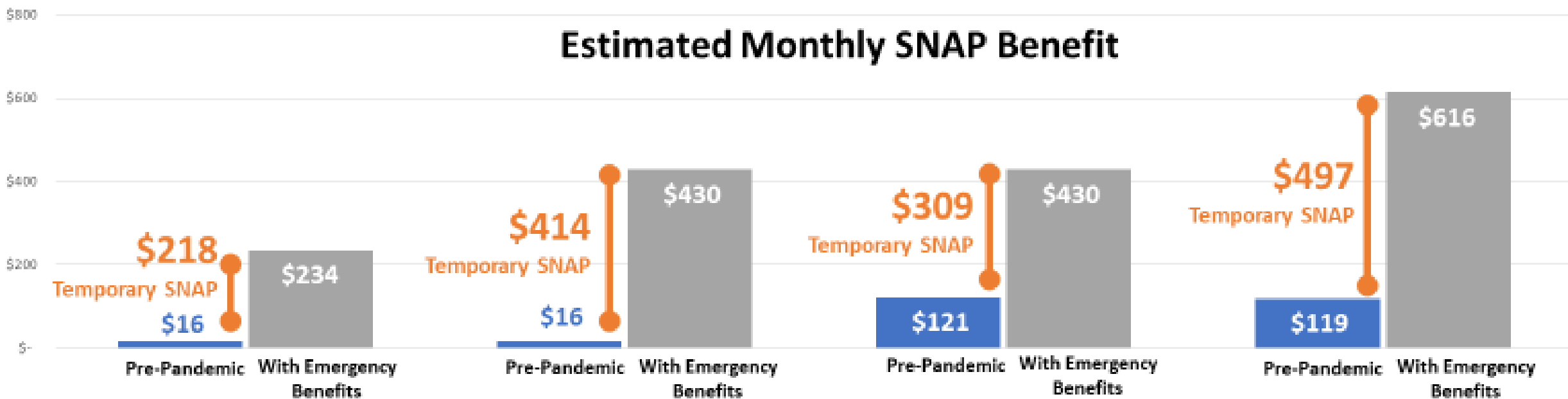
Married Couple



Older Adult &
Disabled Adult



Older Adult &
2 Grandchildren



COVID Cliff Bridge: AOF Proposal

Immediate Investment: \$331.5 Million

Ohio Foodbanks: \$183 Million



Ohio's foodbank network is already facing incredible need, from inflation, supply chain issues, low donations, and more. This support is vital to ensure foodbanks across Ohio are prepared to meet increased demand following reductions in SNAP benefits, rising operating costs and workforce shortages.

County Job & Family Services: \$25 Million



County Job and Family Services (CJFS) offices, who process eligibility for most public benefits in Ohio, are already strained by workforce shortages and unsustainably high call volume, which will only increase at the end of the PHE. This funding will support CJFS offices as they process an unprecedented number of cases in a short time.

In-Person Assisters: \$23.5 Million



When Ohioans receive notices about benefits changes and undergo the Medicaid redetermination process, our in-person assisters will be their first line of support. This funding would support:

- In-person health insurance enrollment assisters
- Legal Aid Services
- A public outreach campaign to inform benefits recipients of changes

Direct Service Nonprofit Support: \$100 Million



Throughout the pandemic, nonprofits across Ohio have been on the front lines helping communities weather the pandemic. Ohio's direct service nonprofit network has been pushed to the brink while rising operating costs and workforce issues become more challenging.

**A Billion
Here, A
Billion
There:**

*Where Have
All of Ohio's
COVID Relief
Dollars Gone?*



A report detailing how federal funds have been spent and recommendations for immediate and long-term investments of the \$1.9 billion Ohio has left to allocate.

Presented by:



www.OhioARPATracker.org

A dynamic website to track how Ohio is investing its federal COVID relief dollars.

A Billion Here, A Billion There

2.5 Years: \$13.3 Billion

Tracking

- How much money was allocated, for what purpose, and has it been spent to date?
- How was the spending authorized?
- How much money is left to be allocated at the state and local level?

Transparency

Advocacy

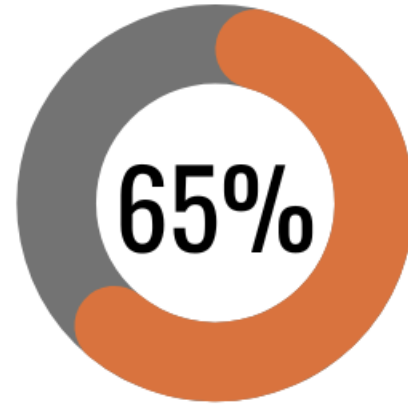


American Rescue Plan Act: Ohio's Funding Snapshot



**\$5.37
Billion**

Ohio's American Rescue
Plan Act Allocation



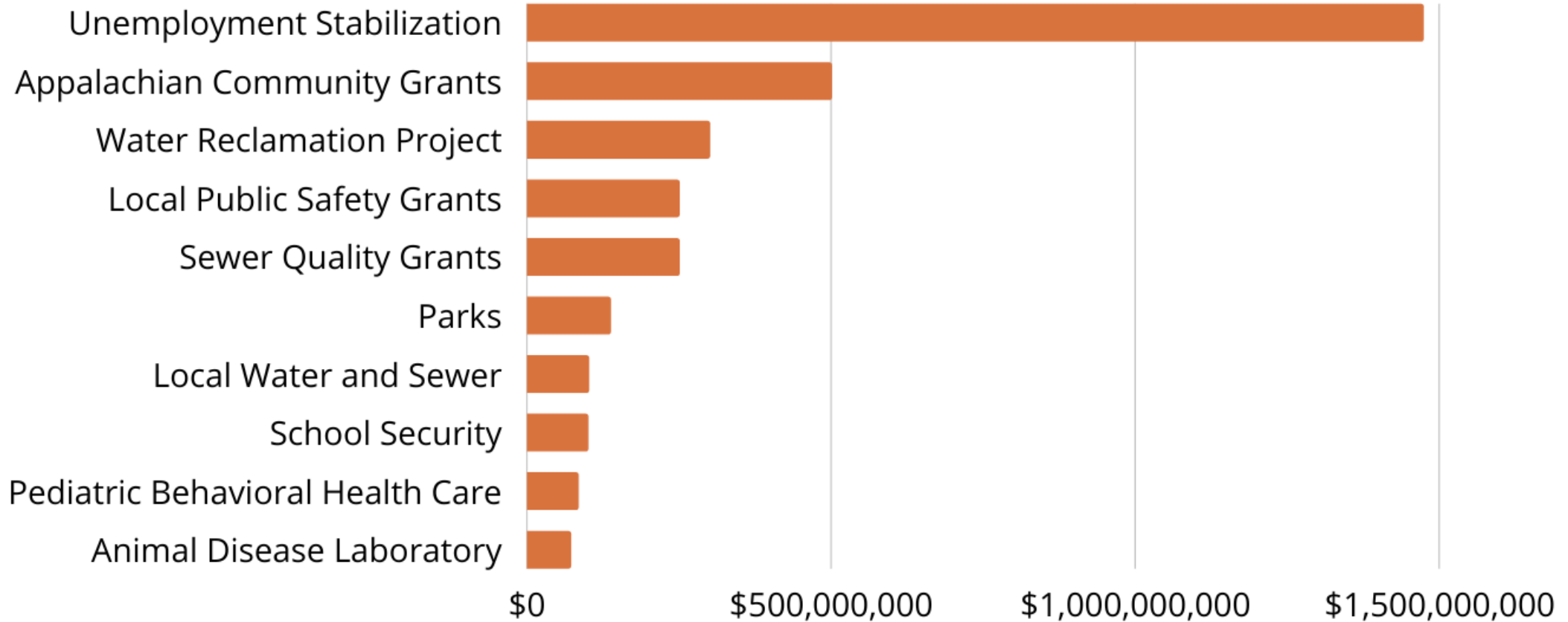
Percent Ohio Has
Allocated to Date

**\$1.9
Billion**

Ohio's Remaining
ARPA Funding

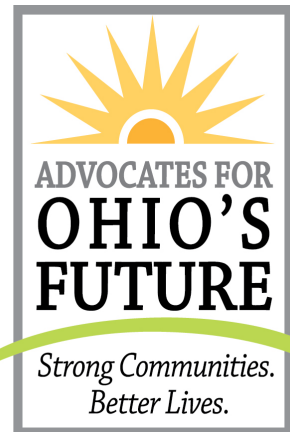
OhioARPATracker.org

American Rescue Plan Act: Ohio's Largest Allocations So Far



Lame Duck Watch

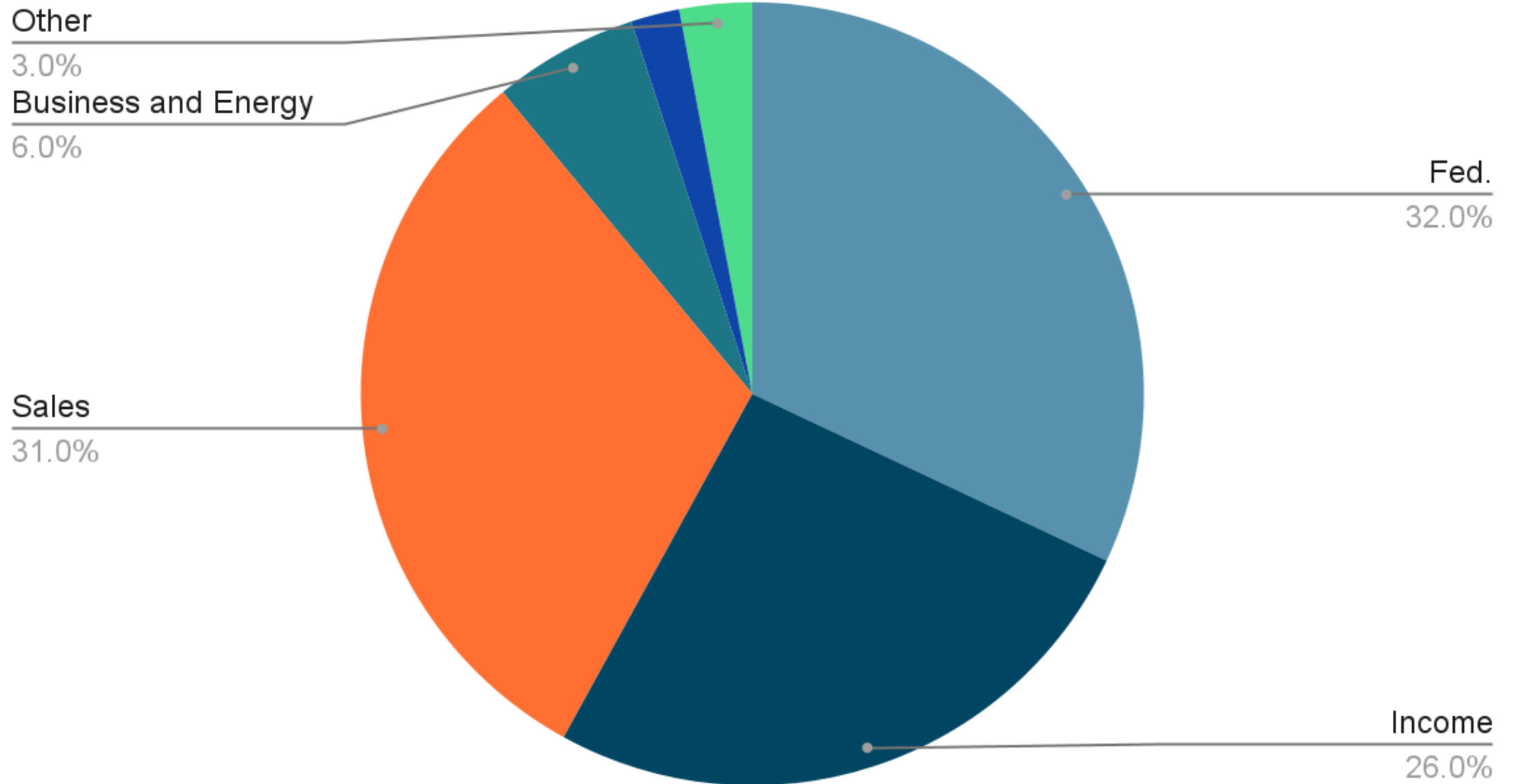
- [Senate Bill 17](#) (Schaffer)-Regards eligibility for SNAP, Medicaid, and unemployment
- Public Assistance Benefits Accountability (PABA) Task Force
- Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) and Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) Study Committee





— Revenue in Ohio —

FY 2021 Revenue



Source: LSC Historic Revenue tables

Since 2005... *The Tax Shift.*

**From the wealthy to the rest of us,
from the state to our local communities.**

- 10 income tax rate cuts
- Higher sales tax
- Tax loopholes for the well-connected
- Broken promises to local communities, (LGF, Estate, TPP, Rollback)

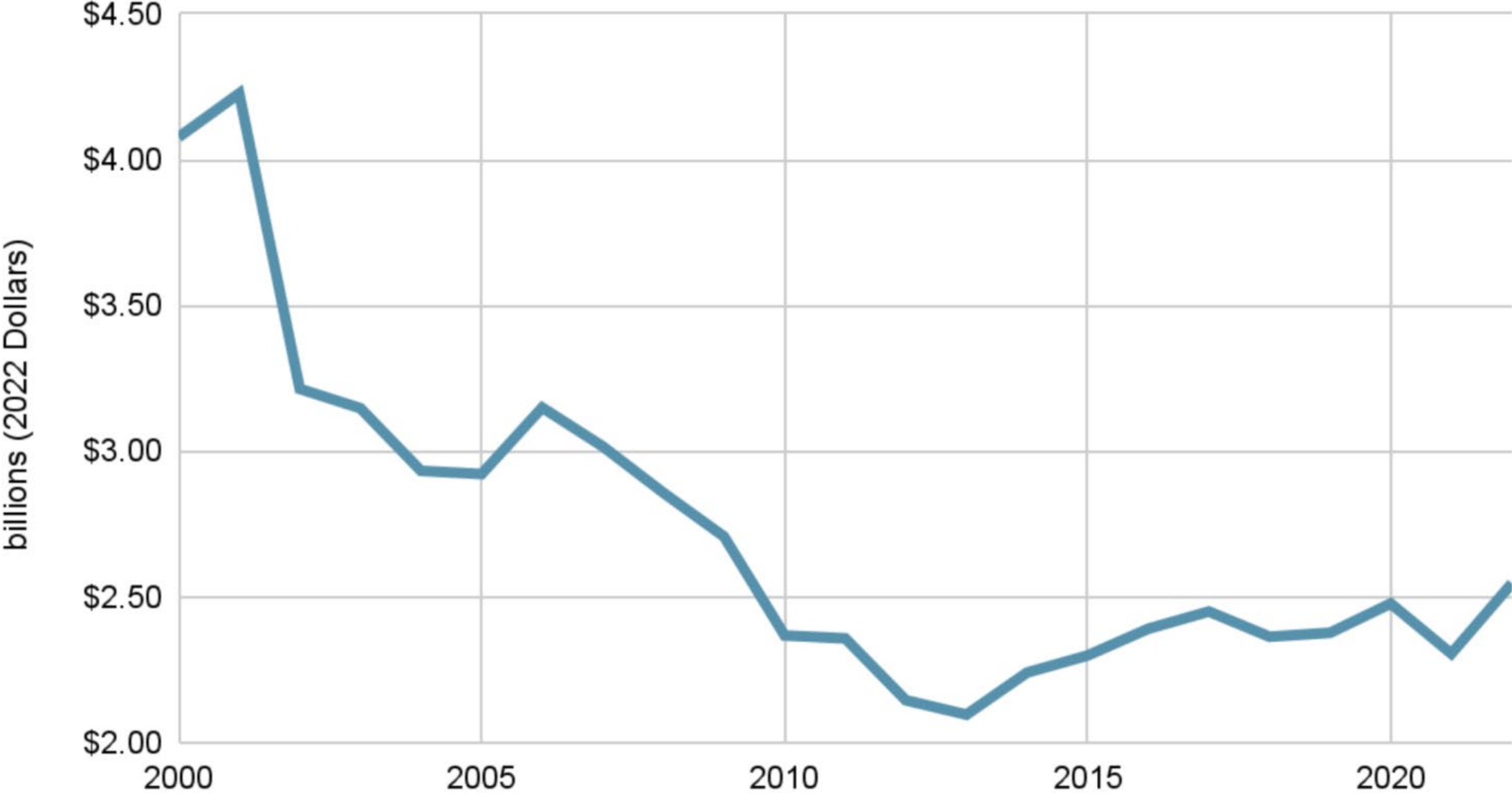
\$8 billion revenue loss

Ohio's most recent income tax rate cuts...

2020 Tax Rates		2021 Tax Rates	
\$0 - \$21,750	0.000%	\$0 - \$25,000	0.000%
\$21,751 - \$43,450	2.850%	\$25,000 - \$44,250	2.765%
\$43,451 - \$86,900	3.326%	\$44,251 - \$88,450	3.226%
\$86,901 - \$108,700	3.802%	\$88,451 - \$110,650	3.688%
\$108,701 - \$217,400	4.413%	\$110,651 and above	3.990%
\$217,401 and above	4.797%		

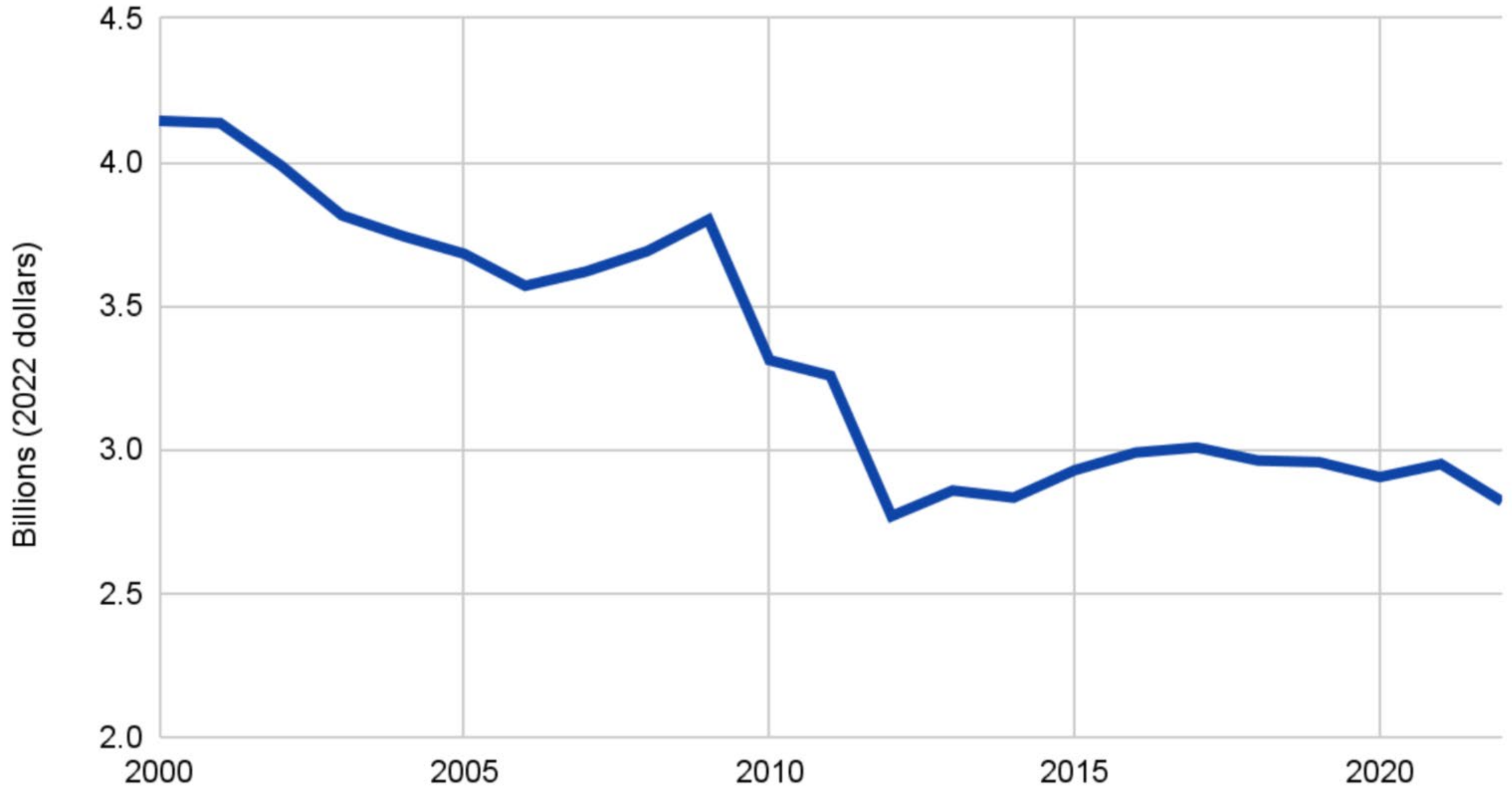
16% rate cut!

Health & Human Service Funding



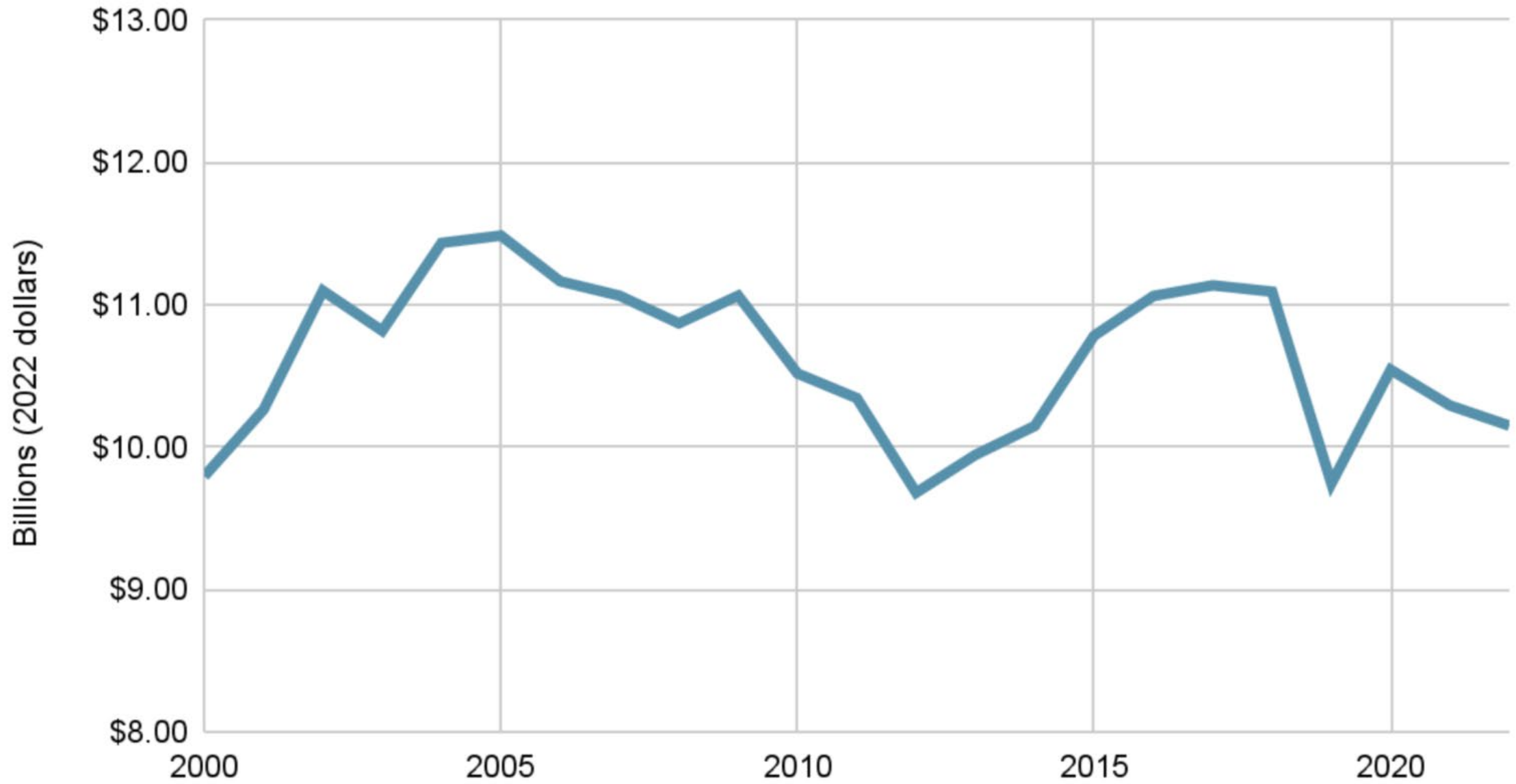
Source: LSC Historic Spending, and BLS inflation calculator

Higher Education Funding



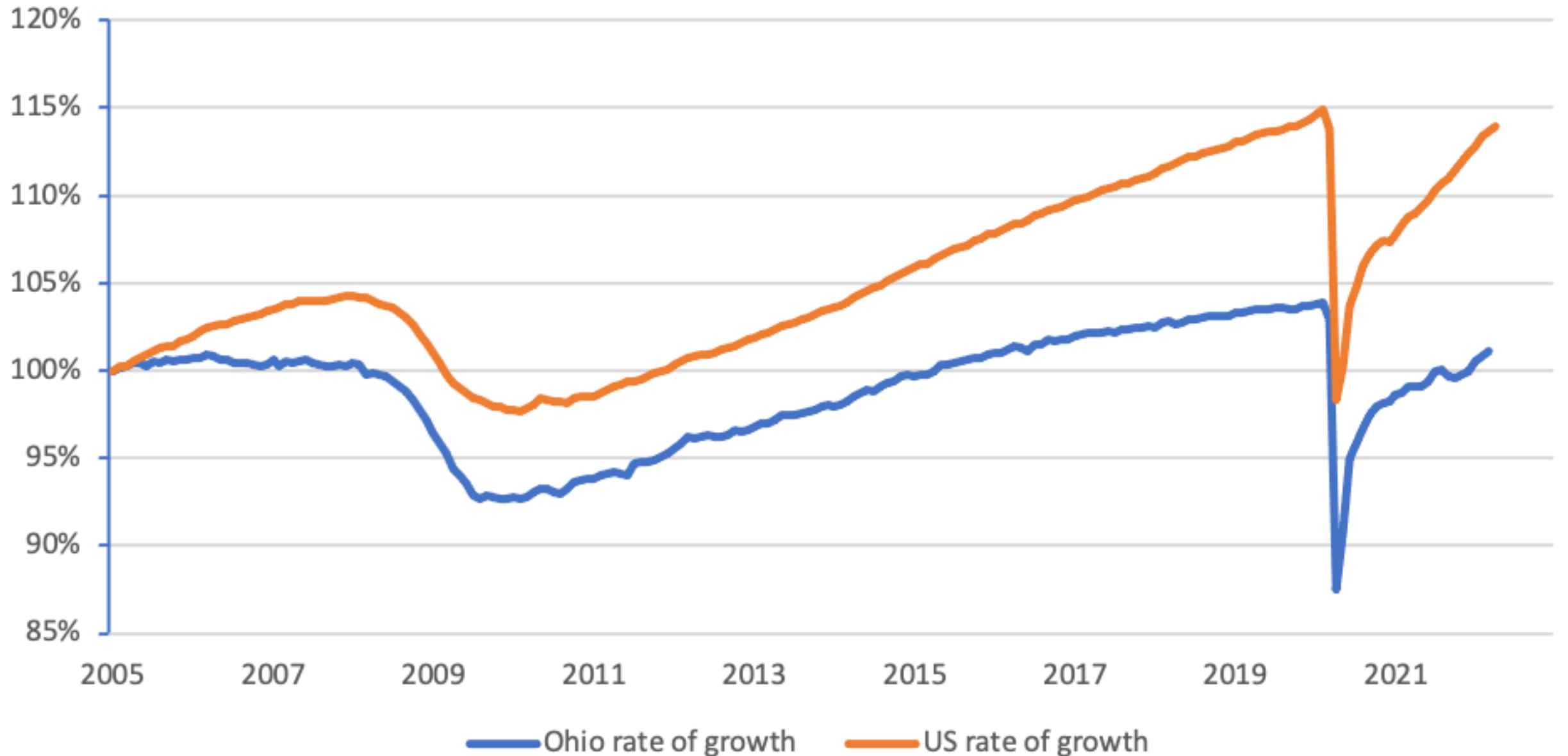
Source: LSC Historic Spending, and BLS inflation calculator

K-12 school funding



Source: LSC Historic Spending, and BLS inflation calculator

Ohio vs. nation job growth



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Pending tax cut proposals (*Pass the Buck Budgeting*):

- **Eliminate the the Commercial Activity Tax - (HB 234)**
*Phase out over 5 years costing the state about **\$2 billion** (in today's dollars) when fully implemented.*
- **Eliminate the state Income Tax - (SB 327)**
*Phase out over 10 years costing state about **\$11.2 billion** (in today's dollars) when fully implemented.*

Let's build up a stronger Ohio...

1. **Have a Vision** - What will it take to solve Ohio's most pressing needs? Policymakers need to hear from you what is needed to not only maintain the status quo, but what will it take to build up our community.
2. **Connect the Dots** - Incorporate revenue into your messages and advocacy. Discuss how sustainable and adequate revenue means for service delivery in this budget and future budgets.
3. **Educate members and coalition partners** on how our state revenues fund important services - revenues are needed to build communities where we want to live.

**Let's make Ohio the best place to raise a family
By investing in the foundations of our communities.**

Thank you

Nick Bates, J.D.

Nick@oneohionow.org



2022 Out of Reach Report

OHIO

In **Ohio**, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$887**. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn **\$2,956** monthly or **\$35,468** annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

\$17.05
PER HOUR
STATE HOUSING
WAGE

FACTS ABOUT OHIO:

STATE FACTS	
Minimum Wage	\$9.30
Average Renter Wage	\$17.33
2-Bedroom Housing Wage	\$17.05
Number of Renter Households	1,589,054
Percent Renters	34%

73
Work Hours Per Week At
Minimum Wage To Afford a **2-Bedroom**
Rental Home (at FMR)

58
Work Hours Per Week At
Minimum Wage To Afford a **1-Bedroom**
Rental Home (at FMR)

1.8
Number of Full-Time Jobs At
Minimum Wage To Afford a
2-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

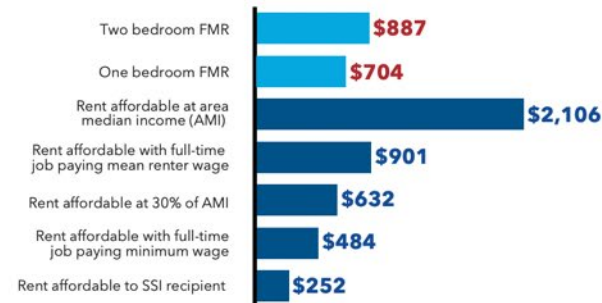
1.5
Number of Full-Time Jobs At
Minimum Wage To Afford a
1-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

Occupation	Total Ohio Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Registered Nurse	129,270	\$35.62
Retail Salesperson	120,670	\$12.99
Fast Food Worker	119,790	\$10.70
Cashier	117,320	\$10.96
Customer Service Rep	115,180	\$17.89
Stocker/Order Filler	107,630	\$14.39
Laborer/Freight Mover	105,130	\$16.37
Home Health Aide	95,120	\$11.54
General Operations Manager	89,630	\$45.60
Office Clerk	86,800	\$17.85
Ohio's 2 BR Housing Wage		\$17.05

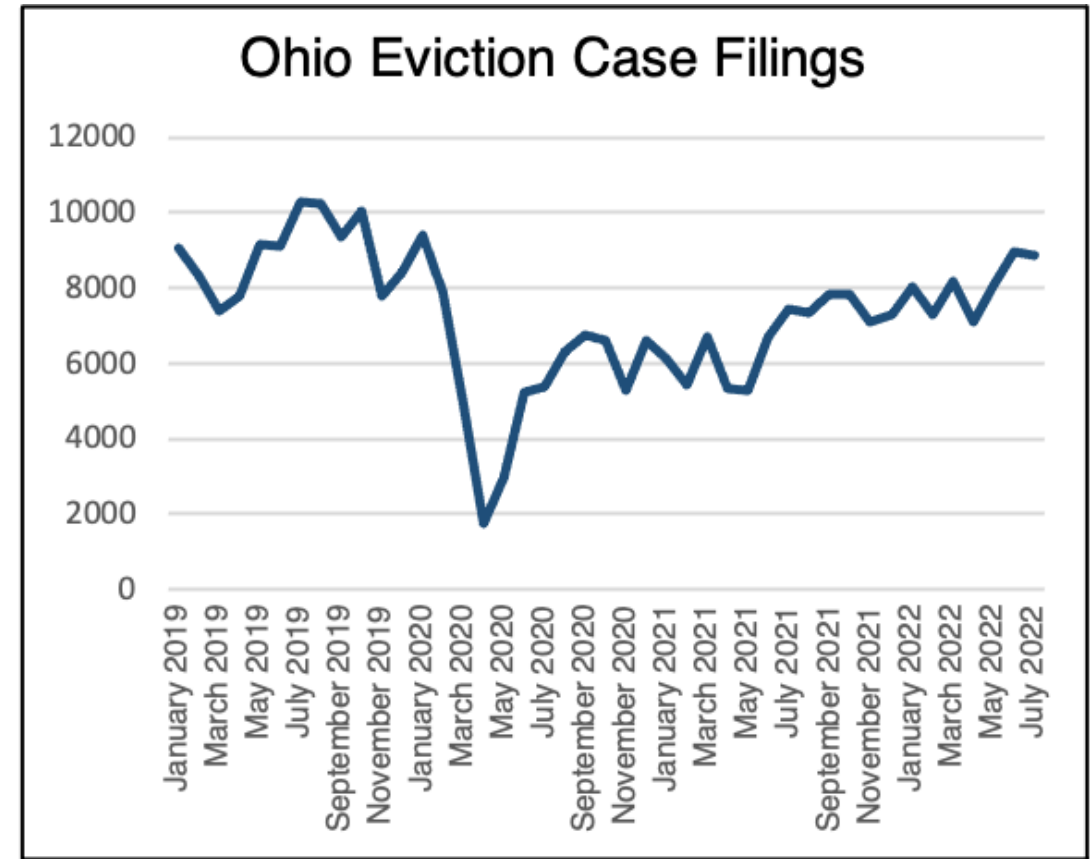
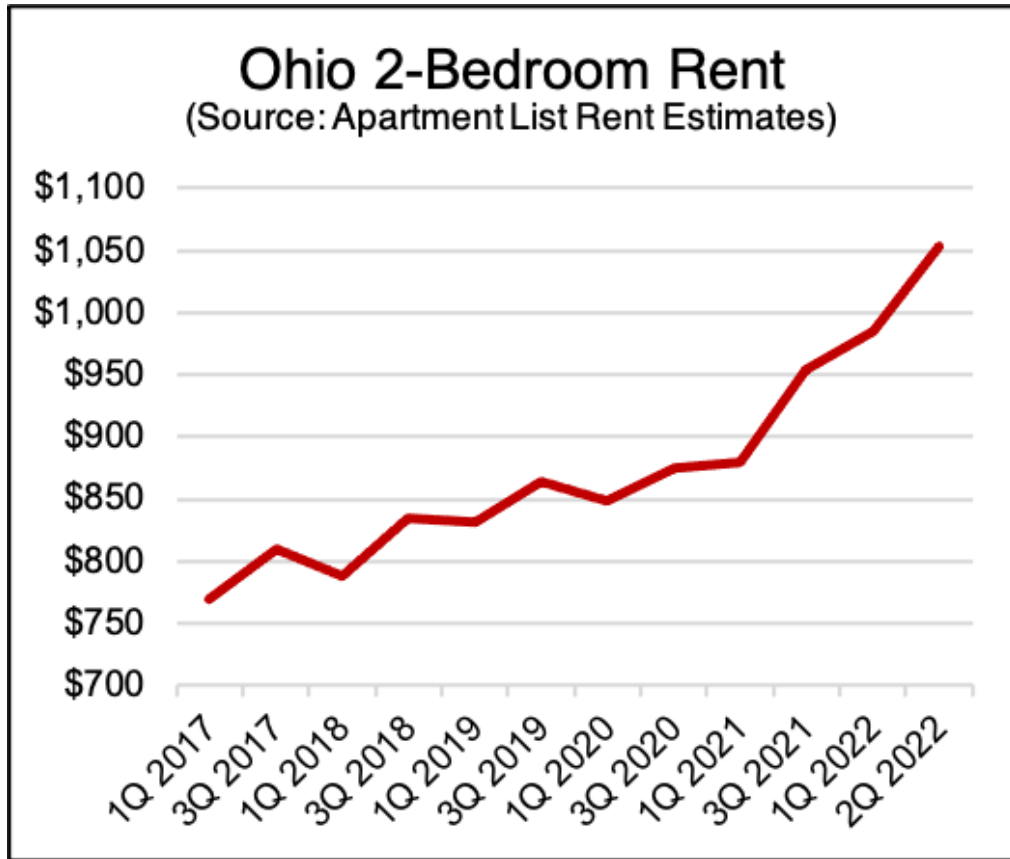
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [May 2021 Ohio Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates](#)

MOST EXPENSIVE AREAS	HOUSING WAGE
Union County	\$20.56
Columbus HMFA	\$19.85
Cincinnati HMFA	\$18.62
Cleveland-Elyria MSA	\$17.17
Akron MSA	\$17.12

MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area; HMFA = HUD Metro FMR Area.



Rising Rent and Evictions



ARPA for Affordable Housing

Invest \$308 million of Ohio's \$5.6 billion to:

- Create 1,500 housing units of supportive housing (\$100 million)
- Create up to 5,000 affordable rental homes (\$150 million)
- Expand Healthy Beginnings at Home (\$9 million)
- Fund Home repair and accessibility upgrades (\$39 million)
- Expand the Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE) program for people exiting criminal justice system (\$10 million)



August 29, 2022

Dear Gov. DeWine, President Huffman, Speaker Cupp, and Members of the Ohio General Assembly:

Home values and the cost of rent have increased at near record levels over the past two years, disproportionately impacting low-income Ohioans and people with disabilities. Fortunately, State Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provide our State an unprecedented opportunity to dramatically increase the supply of housing that is affordable to the most vulnerable Ohioans.

The U.S. Department of Treasury [recently issued guidance](#) that eliminates all remaining barriers to investing ARPA funds in affordable housing development and rehabilitation by:

- Clarifying that ARPA funds can be used to finance, develop, repair or operate any rental unit that provides affordability of 20 years or more to households at or below 65% of local median income;
- Expanding presumptively eligible uses for affordable housing, and;
- Increasing flexibility to use ARPA funds to fully finance long-term affordable housing loans.

This means affordable housing developers can now utilize these funds in full compliance with the proposal to invest \$308 million in ARPA funding that was submitted to your office earlier this year by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and over 225 other Ohio-based companies and organizations.

We urge you to take action immediately on housing development components of the proposal because time is running out.

2023 State, Federal, Local



- Ohio Housing Trust Fund
- Predatory Housing Investors
- Eviction expungement
- State Low Income Housing Tax Credit



- New Congress, different congressional districts
- Federal Budget



- Local Tenant Protections
 - Pay to Stay
 - Source of Income discrimination
 - Right to Counsel

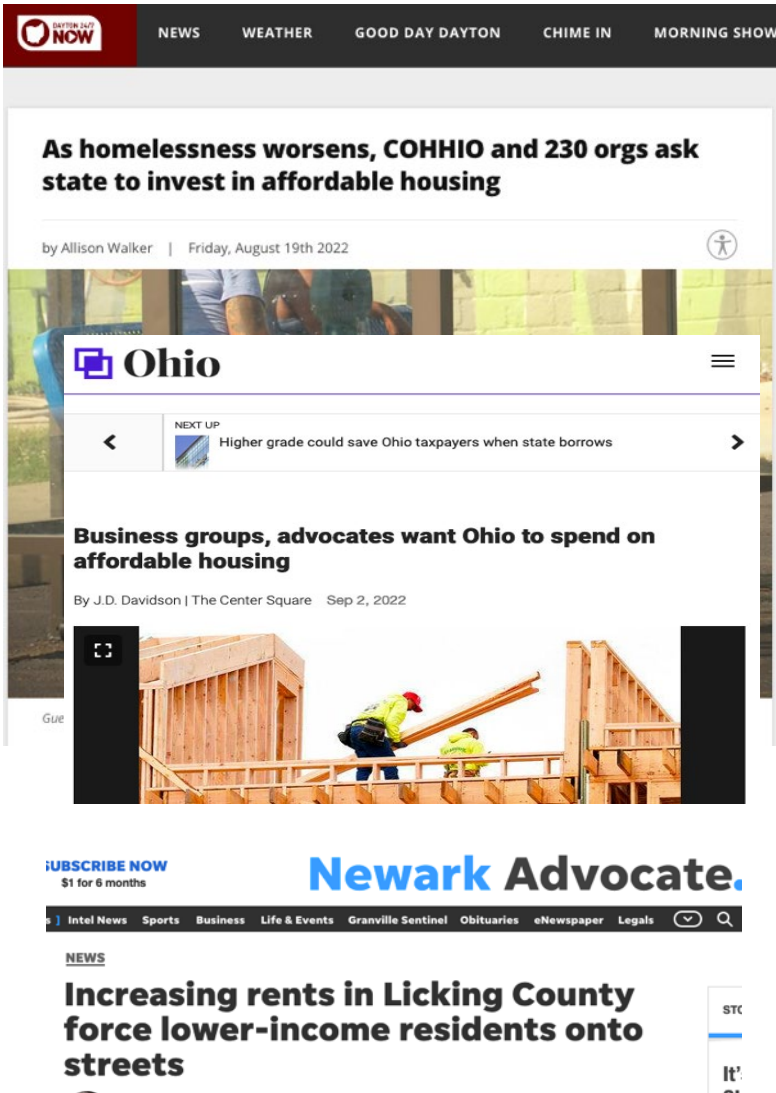
Advocacy Works!

Power of the People

- Start
- Build Relationships
- Grassroots plan
- Simple and Succinct Messaging
- Communication
- Media and press

Housing Crisis In the News

The Columbus Dispatch



DAYTON NOW NEWS WEATHER GOOD DAY DAYTON CHIME IN MORNING SHOW

As homelessness worsens, COHHIO and 230 orgs ask state to invest in affordable housing

by Allison Walker | Friday, August 19th 2022

Ohio

NEXT UP Higher grade could save Ohio taxpayers when state borrows

Business groups, advocates want Ohio to spend on affordable housing

By J.D. Davidson | The Center Square Sep 2, 2022

Subscribe Now \$1 for 6 months Newark Advocate

Increasing rents in Licking County force lower-income residents onto streets



All Sides with Ann Fisher

Addressing homelessness in Columbus and across the country



WHIO TV 7 81° LISTEN WATCH

NEWS STORM CENTER 7 VIDEO I-TEAM WHIO-TV WHIO RADIO TOUCHDOWN 7 ORANGE ZONE ELECTION 2022 STEALS AND DEATHS

Report: Many of Ohio's most popular jobs don't pay enough to afford rent

By WHIO Staff August 09, 2022 at 8:47 pm EDT

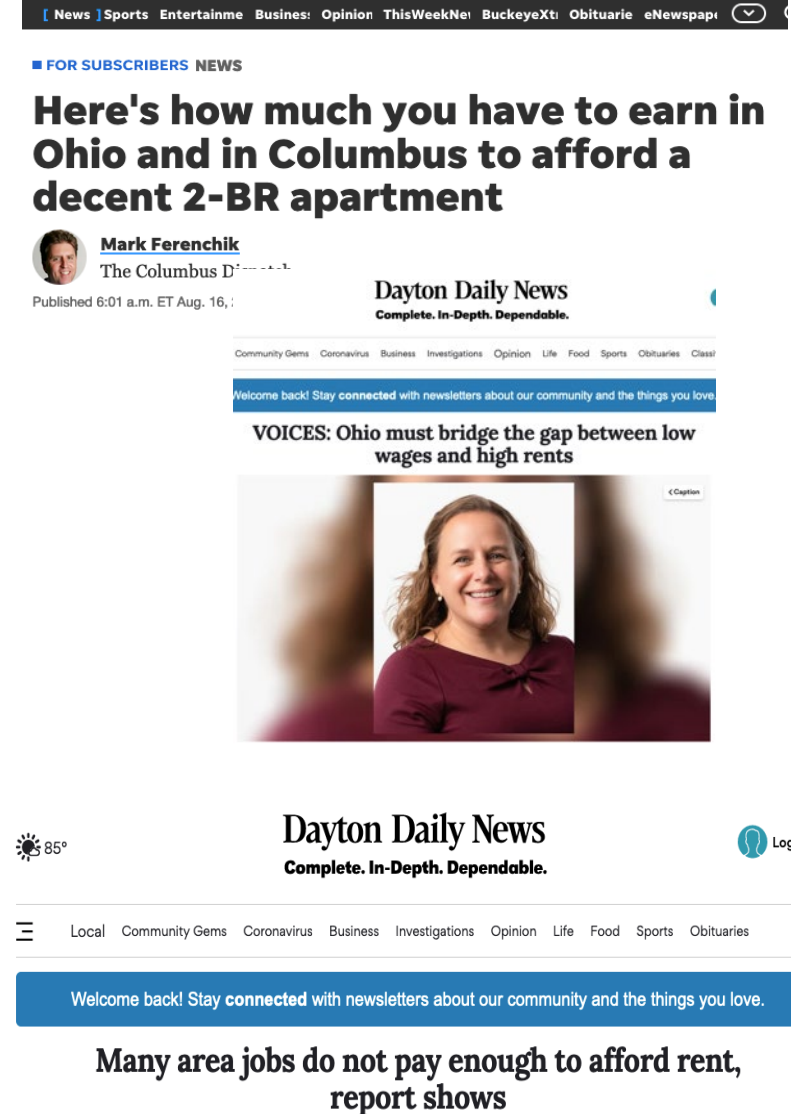
Report: Many of Ohio's most popular jobs don't pay enough to afford rent



Statehouse NEWS BUREAU

Advocates call on Ohio leaders to put \$308M of federal relief funds into affordable housing

The Statehouse News Bureau | By Andy Chow
Published August 25, 2022 at 3:56 PM EDT



News Sports Entertainment Business Opinion ThisWeekNei BuckeyeXt Obituarie eNewspap

FOR SUBSCRIBERS NEWS

Here's how much you have to earn in Ohio and in Columbus to afford a decent 2-BR apartment

Mark Ferenchik The Columbus Dispatch
Published 6:01 a.m. ET Aug. 16, 2022

Dayton Daily News Complete. In-Depth. Dependable.

Community Gems Coronavirus Business Investigations Opinion Life Food Sports Obituaries Class

Welcome back! Stay connected with newsletters about our community and the things you love.

VOICES: Ohio must bridge the gap between low wages and high rents

Dayton Daily News Complete. In-Depth. Dependable.

Local Community Gems Coronavirus Business Investigations Opinion Life Food Sports Obituaries

Welcome back! Stay connected with newsletters about our community and the things you love.

Many area jobs do not pay enough to afford rent, report shows

All the P's Passionate

- Persuasive
- Persistent
- Polite

Questions?



COHHIO

Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

Gina Wilt

Advocacy Director

ginawilt@cohhio.org

2023 Budget Goals and Objectives

Jordan Ballinger,
Policy Director



We have the
legal right of way.

DRO Overview



- Disability Rights Ohio is the state designated and federally authorized protection and advocacy system for the state of Ohio
- Our mission is to advocate for an equitable Ohio for people with disabilities
- Our vision is voices elevated. People empowered. Equity achieved.

DRO's Guiding Budget Principle



- Increase wages for direct care workers

Ohio HCBS Coalition



- Steering Committee: Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council; Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council; and Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging;
- Current membership includes over 100 organizations and self-advocates

Ohio HCBS Coalition



- Collaboration between O4A, DRO, OSILC & DD Council
- Advocates for Ohio's Future letter calling for support to home and community-based services and supports
- Letter sent to Governor DeWine calling for additional funding to home and community-based services and supports signed by 50 individuals and organizations
- Coalition begins meeting monthly and expands membership
- Establishes mission, goals, objectives, shared talking points, and budget priorities
- Advocated for 10% increase in provider rates over the biennium
- Legislature passed 6% in ODM and ODA and 4% in DODD provider rates
- Governor DeWine vetoed the provision, but rates were still increased
- However, the workforce emergency has only intensified since the previous budget

Ohio HCBS Coalition



The Ohio HCBS Coalition advocates for a strong home and community-based supports system that provides all Ohioans the opportunity to thrive and stay connected and engaged in our homes and communities.

www.ohiohcbcoalition.org

Budget Member Priorities



1. Increase direct care worker wages to at least \$18/hr
2. This would be a roughly \$1B investment into the home and community-based service system
3. Eliminate the requirement for non-agency providers to purchase a surety bond

DRO Budget Advocacy



- Working with disabled advocates and supporting their advocacy
- DRO has been working with the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, Breaking Silences, and the Independent Living Centers to ensure disabled advocates voices are being heard by decision makers
- Our budget advocacy is being primarily driven by these advocates
- DRO will be coordinating advocacy efforts that put disabled advocates at the center and ensure legislators hear directly from them

DRO Budget Advocacy



- DRO has been collecting individual stories about how the direct care workforce shortage is impacting individuals and workers
- DRO will be publishing a story map and report on the direct care workforce crisis
- DRO will be using these resources to organize advocates and provide information to the legislature
- DRO will create toolkits to support advocacy efforts for disabled advocates
- This budget DRO is focused on the grassroots advocacy efforts of disabled advocates

DRO Budget Advocacy



- DRO recognizes the power in elevating individual stories and supporting advocates
- DRO also recognizes how essential coalition efforts are to push forward advocacy efforts
- This budget cycle DRO is focusing on moving both needles forward to ensure one of the largest increases in our HCBS system

DRO Public Policy Resource Center



- DRO has updated its public policy page that includes toolkits, information on story sharing, how to contact your legislator and ways to get further involved in advocacy efforts in Ohio
- <https://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/public-policy-advocacy#Advocacy%20Priorities>

Contact



Jordan Ballinger

Policy Director

jballinger@disabilityrightsohio.org

614-466-7264 x135

Setting Budget Priorities

By Tim Johnson

Ohio Poverty Law Center

- We are a statewide non-profit housed within the Ohio State Legal Services Association.
- We are sister organizations with Legal Aid Society of Columbus and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services but work with all Ohio legal aid programs.
- Our Mission: to reduce poverty and increase justice by protecting and expanding the legal rights of Ohioans living, working, and raising their families in poverty.
- All of our budget priorities are set by our mission and the issues faced by legal aid clients.

Budget Priorities: Lead Poisoning Prevention

The Harm of Lead Poisoning

Lifelong impacts include:

- Decreased bone and muscle growth
- Damage to nervous system and/or kidneys
- Speech and language problems
- Hearing loss
- Effects include:
 - Developmental delay
 - Cognitive problems
 - Decreased IQ
 - Attention Deficit Disorder
- Study by CWRU on “Downstream Effects” findings include:
 - Children with EBLL 27% lower chance of being on track for kindergarten
 - 25-30% more likely to enter the juvenile justice system & 34% more likely to be incarcerated as adults
 - By age 23, 40% more likely to require homeless services (and other public aid)

The Scope of the Problem

- Lead dust from lead paint in old housing (built before lead paint was outlawed in 1978) is the number 1 source of child lead poisoning.
- 2/3 of Ohio's housing stock was built before 1980 and an estimated 427,875 children 6 and under live in this housing.
- Ohio has the second highest percentage of kids who have elevated bloods lead levels in the country.
- Every county in Ohio has young children in housing with potential lead hazards. Every county does not have equal resources.
- We don't do a good job of ensuring homes are lead safe before a child is exposed or even testing children and following up to remove lead hazards after a child is already poisoned.

Budget Priorities: Lead Poisoning Prevention

- Use the Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund to expand upon success of Lead Safe Grants.
- Allow Ohio to enforce the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule.
- Expand SCHIP program to bolster prevention efforts and begin track 2 work.
- Support the bi-partisan proposal to use American Rescue Plan funding for residential lead abatement and lead hazard control.

Challenges with Budget Advocacy

- Competing interests in a crowded field.
- Understanding the issue.
- Understanding the scope & urgency.
- Highlighting success and managing expectations.

Tips On Setting Budget Priorities

- What is your hook?
- What issues matters most to you right now, what is your wish list?
- How can you broaden the appeal of your asks to the widest audience?
- Do not let the definition of a “budget” constrain you. Policy change should always be on the table.
- New ideas are fantastic but don’t be afraid to build off previous successes.

Tips on Budget Advocacy

- Who can you bring in to help you?
- Find the sweet spot when asking for funding.
- Like Noah's arc, bring two of each when possible.
- Get to know the staffers.
- Check in with all interested parties and groups.
- If possible, consider supporting activities for your asks.

Questions

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The Ohio Children's Budget Coalition



OHIO
CHILDREN'S
BUDGET
2024-2025

Creating a Vision of Whole Child Wellbeing in Ohio's 2024-2025 Biennial Budget





Why a Children's Budget?

- While children make up 22% of Ohio's population, they represent 100% of Ohio's future. The budget is a moral document that is a reflection of our priorities as a state – we must do right by the children of Ohio.
- The future of Ohio's children rests, in large part, on the decisions that Ohio's adults make on their behalf in programs and funding during the budget process.
- It is critical to articulate a hopeful vision for Ohio's children grounded in a realistic plan for action.
- To support the potential of each child, they must be cared for, healthy, educated, fed, and nurtured. Unfortunately, too many Ohio children are not adequately supported in all areas of their wellbeing.

December 2020

Strengthen the Ohio EITC: The Working Family Tax Credit

The COVID-19 pandemic has plunged our nation and state in a global economic crisis. Since March, over 1.6 million Ohioans have filed for unemployment, up to 689,000 Ohio households are at risk for eviction, and our state foodbanks are being used at record rates. As national and state policy makers work together to develop and implement strategies to help our economy recover, policies that support workers will be more critical than ever to help families re-build their financial security.

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's most powerful anti-poverty program. In 2016, it lifted 265,000 Ohioans out of poverty. In 2019, 887,000 Ohioans claimed the credit. The EITC only goes to families with at least one worker that has earned income. The credit rewards work, re-energizes economies. It helps workers weigh more heavily the benefits of working.

The EITC helps by being a progressive and helps the workforce, housing down the wages income to taxes and whittles to have led EITC is targeted to incomes of 9 million.

Policy

When Ohio's EITC credit was small it was small credit to help families have strengthen cap. Unfortunately Refundability many of Ohio's p credit. With a refund receives a refund including the Dis just six with a not allow families to

ISSUE BRIEF

2020-21 State Budget Policy Progress Report

Progress Made to Improve the Well-being of Children

Wrap-Around Services	\$675 million dedicated for wrap-around services to K-12 students, including mental health counseling, mentoring, and after school programs.
High Quality Child Care	Significant federal resources, plus a \$10 million investment in Quality Infrastructure Grants that will help to improve the quality of child care in Ohio.
Child Protection	Ohio's investment in children's services was doubled in the budget. \$25 million will be used to support child safety and well-being.
Lead Exposure	\$25 million allocated to make Ohio homes lead-safe, offer a lead abatement tax credit, demolish lead-blighted homes, and increase the number of lead hazard control workers.
Food Insecurity	Additional \$60 million in federal funds to improve the nutrition and health of Ohio's children by expanding School Lunch, School Breakfast, and other programs.
Evidence-Based Home Visiting	\$69.6 million invested in Help Me Grow will increase home visiting services for at-risk, expectant mothers to reduce infant mortality.
Children's Health	\$200 million in funding for Medicaid to maintain coverage of children currently enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Priorities Left Out of the Budget

Paid Family Leave	A Family Medical Leave Insurance fund would provide parents the support to balance the demands of work and home.
Earned Income Tax Credit	Making the EITC refundable would ensure working families can build assets and be more financially secure.
Child Care: Access & Affordability	Extending access to affordable child care for families living at or below 200% of poverty would benefit working families and Ohio's economy.
Census 2020	No funding was appropriated to prevent the undercount of children and hard-to-count communities in Ohio.

The Ohio Children's Budget Coalition (OCBC)

The Ohio Children's Budget Coalition is made up of 23 statewide advocacy organizations (and growing) committed to creating a vision of whole child wellbeing in Ohio.

- Advocates for Ohio's Future
- Center for Community Solutions
- Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
- Groundwork Ohio
- Juvenile Justice Coalition
- Public Children Services Association of Ohio
- Women's Public Policy Network
- Ohio Children's Alliance
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
- Buckeye Hills Regional Council
- Ohio Children's Hunger Alliance
- Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition
- Policy Matters Ohio
- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio Federation of Teachers
- OCALI
- Ohio Poverty Law Center
- Council for a Strong America
- Appalachian Children Coalition
- First Year Cleveland
- Pre4Cle
- Philanthropy Ohio

We advocate for a state budget that:

- ✓ Prioritizes the whole child, including the communities they call home and the systems they depend on.
- ✓ Improves outcomes and eliminates silos by building a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of services and programs to address issues beyond the artificial boundaries of agencies and funding streams.
- ✓ Protects essential programs that promote whole child well-being. Maintains and builds on previous investments that promote health, nutrition, housing security, quality child care, economic stability, strong families, quality education, and critical infrastructure, like broadband, that connects children and families to the services and supports needed during the pandemic and beyond.
- ✓ Advances budget solutions that prioritize racial equity and combat the effects of structural racism in our communities, which negatively impact child outcomes.
- ✓ Supports the transition to adulthood. Childhood is a continuum and adolescent development continues through the early 20s. Many youth need additional support to successfully transition to adulthood.
- ✓ Ensures all investments go toward data/research-driven best practices, approaches, programs, and services that maximize benefits for children and families and represent an effective use of taxpayer investments.



Ohio FY24-25 Budget Priorities

Partners have committed to write specific policy and funding recommendations to inform decision-making, promote racial equity, and take on the considerable challenges of COVID-19 with evidence-based, effective strategies.

- Strengthen the Ohio Earned Income Tax Credit
- Infant and Maternal Health
- Bridging Ohio's Digital Divide
- Child care workforce shortage and compensation
- Youth Incarceration
- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Childhood mental health
- Full implementation of Fair School Funding Formula
- Expand Summer Food Access for Children
- Ending Homelessness for Children and Families
- Expand Access to High Quality Child Care
- Increased access to school meals for all Ohio students
- Continuous Medicaid Coverage for children
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Multi-System Youth
- Child Lead Poisoning

To access all of our past briefs and learn more, visit: www.ohiochildrensbudget.org



Approach to Advocacy

- Vision: all investments that prioritize our children are possible and necessary to support the whole child; no fixed pie.
- Issue Briefs allow organizations to learn about major issues of other partners and to help find connections between their issues
- Within conversations individual partners have with lawmakers, they also discuss priorities of OCBC members and OCBC collectively
- OCBC to publish an “issue-brief book” comprised of the various issues briefs
- Meetings with administration and legislature that include multiple members of OCBC to discuss issues of child wellbeing
- Webinars, social media outreach, twitter storms, and information sharing
 - Follow OCBC on twitter and social media- @BudgetOhio- [Profile / Twitter](#)



Thank You!

Email:

kungar@childrensdefense.org

Next Up: Local, State and Federal Perspectives on HHS

Don't forget to sign up for our next Budget Training Academy webinar coming up **Wednesday October 19th** at 10:30am

- [Register HERE](#)

Just Announced: Budget Academy Summit on Tuesday, December 6th from 11:30-4:15pm. [Register HERE.](#)

Recording and slides will be sent out to all registrants by tomorrow

- Recording and slides will also be available at <https://www.advocatesforohio.org/budget-training-academy>

