

**STAND WITH US
ON THE SIDE OF CHILDREN**



**children's
defense fund
ohio**



2021 IMPACT REPORT

Through your support, CDF-Ohio successfully fought on the side of Ohio's children in 2021, holding firm to our values of hope, courage, integrity, and justice. While we experienced some hard-won successes, much work remains unfinished. In Ohio, nearly 1 in 5 children live in poverty, which means over 500,000 children live in families that struggle to make ends meet. Moreover, nearly half of children depend on Medicaid to meet their health needs, and 1 in 3 receive nutrition assistance to stave off hunger. As a state, there are many uncertainties and challenges ahead of us, but one thing is clear: though children represent just 20% of our state's population, they absolutely represent 100% of our future. We look forward to our continued partnership in 2022.

HOPE

Our *Child Watch Ohio* stories documented the real experiences of families, health care service providers, and others around the state and were shared with lawmakers, focusing on challenges to accessing and maintaining health care during the pandemic. Centering the experiences of children and families is critical, and we are committed to listening and focusing on their needs to inform and drive our work.

INTEGRITY

Our state has the potential to be a leader in children's health, education equity, and overall wellbeing. As the leader of the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition, CDF-Ohio brought together 23 leading child advocacy organizations with shared vision of child wellbeing in Ohio. We worked together to make children central to conversations about Ohio's future, securing investments that give every child opportunities to thrive and successfully transition to adulthood.

COURAGE

We believe those who are closest to the problems are oftentimes closest to the solutions. For this reason, we elevate youth voices in public policy through our child welfare advocacy and partnership with ACTION Ohio and the OHIO Youth Advisory Board. In this past year, we successfully advocated for a youth-informed Foster Youth Bill of Rights and Youth Ombudsman Office to enforce those rights.

JUSTICE

Every child has the right to a high-quality educational experience. Yet, many children experience barriers to learning, such as hunger, housing insecurity, lack of transportation, inaccessible broadband, and health challenges. We are committed to making sure all children, no matter their race, zip code, or economic status, have what they need to thrive and flourish. That is why we proudly supported and advocated for the Fair School Funding Plan.

CDF-OHIO IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS:

13 of 15

key child-centered policy areas where CDF-Ohio, alongside our Ohio Children's Budget Coalition partners, saw progress and investment in children in the 2022-2023 state biennial budget

As part of our collective impact, we successfully advocated for extension of Medicaid coverage from 60-days to 12-months postpartum for new moms, a more equitable school funding formula, internet connectivity investments, and more.



QUICK 2021 CDF-OHIO STATS

54

Blog posts, fact sheets, & issue briefs written on child wellbeing

28

Testimony & letters written to lawmakers and state leaders as legislative outreach

190

Data profiles released on child wellbeing indicators

120

Articles published as earned media coverage for CDF-Ohio

23

Webinars hosted to engage state leaders, parents, & youth on child policy issues

In 2021, we celebrated CDF-Ohio's



40 year anniversary

of advocacy for Ohio's children!

3

Data reports published in 2021

As our 2021 KIDS COUNT Data Book, CDF-Ohio co-authored the first data set of its kind to review behavioral health services and supports available to each child at the county level in Ohio.

\$640,000

Dollars put directly in the hands of 110 Ohio families not automatically receiving the expanded Child Tax Credit

Nationwide, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has helped families meet their basic needs, lifting 3.6 million children out of poverty since July. CDF-Ohio worked with grassroots organizations across the state to sign up 110 Ohio families at risk of missing out on these expanded CTC payments.