

VOTE for OHIO KIDS

Economic stability and self-sufficiency

KNOW
THE ISSUES

Economic stability and self-sufficiency for families is vital to supporting and maintaining a child's overall mental health and well-being and contributes to the long-term vitality of our state. Families are our children's first and most important teachers, playing a critical role in a child's development. Families who have financial stability can afford safe, quality housing, healthy foods, quality health care and child care, and can strategically plan for and invest in their children's future. When families have the resources and supports to provide the care and enrichment their child needs, their children can grow and thrive. Children who grow and develop in families with economic self-sufficiency have better physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their lives.



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of our systems in both responding to and preventing a behavioral health crisis and has exacerbated the health care challenges facing our youngest Ohioans.

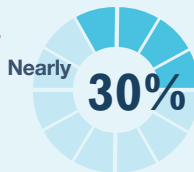
What does the data tell us?

Many families in Ohio are experiencing economic instability and are unable to afford their children's most basic needs:



More than
1 IN 5

children, ages 0-17, were living in poverty (below 100% of the federal poverty level [FPL]) in 2019.¹



of households with young children, ages 0-5, could not always afford to eat good nutritious meals.² At the same time, only

35% of eligible children, ages 1-4, received WIC benefits in 2018.³



43%

More than 4-in-10 working parents in Ohio say they have had to **cut back on hours to care for their children** in the last few months.

60%

of non-working or part-time working moms say they would go back to work if their child had **access to quality child care at a reasonable cost**.

80%

of Ohio voters and parents with children under five (75%) believe **child care is expensive where they live**.⁴



Children of color, who live in Appalachian or rural regions of the state, with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience economic instability and poverty compared to their peers.

To improve mental health and well-being, Ohio's next governor should support economic stability by:

-  Implementing policies that support parental employment and increase parental income for families with low incomes.
-  Increasing financial security for children through children's savings accounts or baby bonds.
-  Boosting food security for families with low incomes.
-  Expanding access to safe and affordable housing.

Sources

1. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/10465-children-in-poverty>
2. National Survey of Children's Health (2019-2020)
3. [Groundwork Ohio's Early Childhood Dashboard Preview \(2022\)](#)
4. [Groundwork Ohio Statewide Poll \(2021\)](#)

Presented by:




#Vote4OhioKids