



Groundwork OHIO



SUSAN ACKERMAN

Managing Director, Policy

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In the heart of Groundwork Ohio's mission stands Susan Ackerman, a passionate and dedicated leader with an unwavering commitment to the well-being of mothers and their precious babies and young children. As the Managing Director of Policy at Groundwork Ohio, Susan brings a lifetime of policy and advocacy expertise to the forefront of our efforts.

Susan is the driving force behind the development, leadership, and implementation of the organization's visionary policy agenda. With a keen focus on critical maternal and infant healthcare initiatives and early learning programs, Susan shapes policies and systems that are not only impactful, but resonate deeply with the needs of Ohio's infants, toddlers, young children, and their families. In addition to her role in policy development, Susan directs Groundwork Ohio's statewide coalition efforts, orchestrating recruitment, outreach, engagement, and mobilization initiatives to hold decision-makers accountable to the best interests of Ohio's youngest.

Susan's journey to Groundwork Ohio is marked by a rich tapestry of experiences, most recently serving as the Managing Director of the Ohio practice for Sellers Dorsey. Here, she collaborated with health systems nationwide, securing additional Medicaid funding to preserve access and enhance care for Medicaid patients—an accomplishment indicative of her commitment to equitable healthcare outcomes.

Previously, Susan held the esteemed position of Executive Director for the Joint Medicaid Oversight

Committee (JMOC), where she played a pivotal role in elevating legislative oversight and direction for Ohio's largest program. Given her deep expertise, she supported the Ohio legislature's understanding of the state's infant mortality crisis and the policy and financing levers available to policymakers to improve outcomes and harness disparities.

Susan also previously served as the William C. and Elizabeth M. Treuhaft Chair for Health Planning at the Center for Community Solutions, where she led health policy research and advocacy, emphasizing strategies to improve population health while reducing the cost of chronic disease. Susan's extensive background also includes impactful roles such as Director of Regulatory Services at the Ohio Association of Health Plans, focusing on the implementation of the state's Medicaid managed care program, and a 12-year tenure in state government where she served as Section Chief for Health and Human Services at the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, responsible for developing and managing fiscal policies across various agencies.

Armed with a master's degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Smith College, Susan brings a holistic approach to policy advocacy, blending academic prowess with real-world experience. Her multifaceted journey reflects a lifelong dedication to shaping policies that ensure a brighter, healthier future for Ohio's children and families.

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