

LYNANNE GUTIERREZ

President & CEO

lgutierrez@groundworkohio.org

Lynanne Gutierrez is the President & CEO of Groundwork Ohio, where she leads the organization's statewide mission to advance early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five. Under her leadership, Groundwork Ohio has strengthened its reputation as a trusted, nonpartisan voice for Ohio's youngest children—translating data and lived experience into sound public policy that improves the health, education, and economic stability of families across the state.

A visionary leader and steadfast advocate for young children, Lynanne guides Groundwork's strategic direction, oversees statewide initiatives, and forges partnerships that unite diverse stakeholders—from policymakers and philanthropists to parents and community advocates—around a shared commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive. She is known for building coalitions that bridge sectors and political lines, advancing data-driven solutions grounded in equity and family voice.

Recognized as one of Ohio's leading experts on early childhood and family policy, Lynanne is a trusted advisor to state and national leaders alike. Her expertise has been shaped by two decades of experience in public policy, legal practice, advocacy, and nonprofit leadership, equipping her with a unique understanding of how systems and policy decisions affect children and families on the ground. She has served as an appointed member of the Ohio Children and Youth Advisory Council since 2019 and frequently provides counsel on issues spanning maternal and infant health, early childhood education and child care, and family-focused economic policy.

Before being named President & CEO, Lynanne played a central role in Groundwork Ohio's evolution, helping guide its successful transition to a standalone 501(c)(3) organization in 2021. She has since led efforts to strengthen organizational infrastructure, modernize operations, and align strategic planning, governance, and fiscal management to support sustainable growth. Her leadership reflects a deep understanding of what it takes to build and steward a high-impact, mission-driven nonprofit capable of driving long-term systems change for children and families.

Lynanne's leadership and impact have been recognized through numerous honors, including the Columbus Chamber Nonprofit Visionary Award (2026), Columbus Business First C-Suite Nonprofit CEO Award (2025), the Leadership Ohio Community Impact Award (2025), and the Ohio Head Start Association's Children's Champion Award (2024). She is a graduate of Leadership Ohio's 2023 Signature Fellowship Program. Beyond her professional role, she continues to give back through service on the boards of three statewide nonprofit organizations dedicated to crime victim advocacy, student success inside and outside the classroom, and political will-building for child-focused policy.

Lynanne leads from both head and heart, grounded in the conviction that every child deserves opportunity and every family deserves the support to thrive—a belief that transcends politics and reminds us of our shared purpose. She lives in Columbus with her husband, Anthony, and their three young children—Gabe, Arlo, and Phoebe—whose curiosity, humor, and resilience continually inspire her to build a state that works for all families.