



# Groundwork OHIO



## JACOB OATES

**Program Manager**  
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As Program Manager, Jacob will manage many of Groundwork Ohio's crucial audiences, including professionals, families, community leaders, policymakers, and others through effective programming, operations, events, and communications.

Jacob has spent his career supporting early childhood education in multiple roles and capacities. He began his early childhood journey as a classroom teacher, learning the skills and dedication needed to support young children in an early childhood setting. He quickly became aware of the impact that early childhood education has on young children of all backgrounds and abilities through his roles of program coordinator, administrator, and manager at the Nisonger Early Learning Program. These opportunities and roles allowed him to expand on and impact the lives of the families at the center.

Through his time at the Nisonger Early Learning Program, Jacob encountered many of the challenges families have expressed in accessing and affording child care. He also saw the necessity for program funding at its core and the need for advocates in early childhood education.

Jacob graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in education, where he was a part of the Unified Sports program at the intramural level. Jacob has a passion for supporting families with a child or adult with a developmental delay or disability, and his time at the Nisonger Center and Unified Sports sculpted this avidity. Jacob stays connected to organizations such as Special Olympics Ohio and DSACO. He currently lives in Columbus with his wife and in his free time enjoys geography and history-themed trivia, sports, and board games.

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