

## Announcing Groundwork Ohio's Family Action Network

Dear Stakeholder,

At Groundwork Ohio, we believe that parents and families are the experts of their own experiences and know what their babies and toddlers need to thrive. That's why we're excited to build a powerful statewide Family Action Network by investing in the capacity of 99 families in 2022 through unique training and bringing them together to raise their voices at the Statehouse and share their stories.

Groundwork Ohio is pleased to announce that we will be launching the Family Action Network on **Wednesday, May 18, 2022**. As part of the launch, we will be hosting *Strolling Thunder Ohio* for the inaugural members of the Family Action Network on May 18, 2022, at the Ohio Statehouse.

*Strolling Thunder Ohio* will be a morning of action where members of the Family Action Network meet with state policymakers to share their stories and discuss the need for policies that support babies, young children, and their families. Later that day, we will also be hosting a large family-friendly rally on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse.



Partners like you have shared your excitement around our family-focused work. Now is the time that we are returning to you to tell you once again that we cannot do this alone. There is a role for all our stakeholders to contribute to the development of the Family Action Network and the unique programming we have planned on May 18, 2022. Will you join us in making this moment a movement?

**To meet our ambitious goal of recruiting 99 families from across the state to attend the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action and rally, Groundwork Ohio is asking early childhood stakeholders, child- and family-serving organizations, and community leaders like you to help us identify and recruit families to participate.**

Additionally, we are asking that volunteer partners provide hands-on support to the families that they recruit, including during the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action and rally.

**Groundwork Ohio has compiled the attached resources to provide information on how you and your organization can be a partner in our efforts.** Please review the information carefully and contact our team at [familyaction@groundworkohio.org](mailto:familyaction@groundworkohio.org) with your questions or feedback. If you are interested in partnering with us, please complete our partner interest form at [www.groundworkohio.org/familyactionpartner](http://www.groundworkohio.org/familyactionpartner).

We need your help to build a powerful, diverse Family Action Network!

Warm regards,

The Groundwork Ohio Team

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is the Family Action Network at Groundwork Ohio?

Parents and families with young children are the experts of their own stories and experiences. As such, families deserve a seat at the table when it comes to the creation and implementation of policies and programs that impact the healthy development of their children.

To help elevate the voices of Ohio parents and families in the policymaking process, Groundwork Ohio is committed to developing a statewide Family Action Network. **The Family Action Network will be a powerful and diverse coalition of Ohio families from across the state who will be provided accessible trainings, regular programming, and opportunities to engage with policymakers on an ongoing basis.**

Through the Family Action Network, we seek to empower families to tell their stories, share their experiences, and be a true partner in shaping the policies and programs that impact their children and families!

### What will the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action and rally look like?

Our vision of *Strolling Thunder Ohio* is a family-centered morning of action where families with infant, toddler, and preschool-age children will gather to meet with state policymakers to share their stories. Our goal is to recruit 99 families throughout the state, representing each of Ohio's 99 state House districts.

The day will begin with an energizing breakfast program featuring guest speakers and kid-friendly activities. At the conclusion of the breakfast program, families will meet with state legislators at the Ohio Statehouse. Following the meetings with state legislators, families will then "stroll" with their strollers to the Statehouse lawn, where boxed lunches will be served. During lunch, families will have the opportunity to participate in child-friendly activities, as well as a rally in support of Ohio's infants, toddlers, and their families.

### How can my organization support the Family Action Network and *Strolling Thunder Ohio*?

To meet our ambitious goal of recruiting 99 families to attend the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action, **Groundwork Ohio is asking early childhood stakeholders, child- and family-serving organizations, and community leaders like you to help us identify and recruit families to participate.** Additionally, we are asking that partners provide hands-on support to the families that they recruit, including during the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action and afternoon rally.

### How many families is my organization expected to recruit for *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action?

Due to capacity restrictions at the Ohio Statehouse, we are limited in the number of families who can participate in the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action meetings with state legislators. Therefore, Groundwork Ohio will provide each partner organization with detailed guidelines and instructions for family recruitment.

The number of families that organizations will be asked to recruit will be established on a partner-to-partner basis and will consider factors such as your organization's capacity, ongoing recruitment efforts in your region, and other factors.

### What is my organization committing to as a *Strolling Thunder Ohio* partner?

There are a number of roles your organization and staff can play to support the development of the Family Action Network and the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action and rally. Your level of commitment will depend on which engagement opportunity best fits your organization's work and capacity. We've broken down engagement opportunities into the following categories: **Recruit, support, and promote.**

To learn more about each of these engagement opportunities, please read the "How can you support the Family Action Network?" flow chart, enclosed in this packet.

### What support will be provided to members of the Family Action Network who participate in *Strolling Thunder Ohio*?

We are committed to ensuring that every family who joins the Family Action Network and participates in *Strolling Thunder Ohio* feels confident and equipped to fully engage in the event and meetings with their state legislators.

Prior to *Strolling Thunder Ohio*, families will be asked to participate in **three 90-minute virtual training sessions** designed to help them tell their story and prepare for meetings with state policymakers. Each training will be offered at several times to accommodate families' varying schedules. Additionally, there will be on-site accommodations for families at the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* event, such as diaper changing stations, nursing areas, quiet spaces, and stroller parking.

We understand that participating in the virtual training sessions and the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* day of action may be a challenge for families. As such, Groundwork Ohio will provide participating families a stipend for each training session completed and for attending the *Strolling Thunder Ohio* event.

### What's the next step to supporting the Family Action Network and *Strolling Thunder Ohio*?

Thank you for your interest in partnering with us to build a powerful statewide Family Action Network and successful *Strolling Thunder Ohio* launch event! If you would like to support our efforts and officially sign on as a partner, please complete our partner interest form at [www.groundworkohio.org/familyactionpartner](http://www.groundworkohio.org/familyactionpartner). Once you have expressed your interest, the Groundwork Ohio team will contact you to provide more information on the next steps.

You can also contact [familyaction@groundworkohio.org](mailto:familyaction@groundworkohio.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

## ***Strolling Thunder Ohio Agenda***

**Morning of Action & Rally – Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

**Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio**

**Please note that this agenda is subject to change.**

**9:00am:** Doors and registration open for *Strolling Thunder Ohio* morning of action. *Invite only*

**9:00am-10:00am:** Family Ambassadors arrive and check-in at registration table. Family-style breakfast will be available upon arrival in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Child-friendly activities available at tables. *Invite only*

**10:00-10:30am:** *Strolling Thunder Ohio* program in the Atrium begins. Speakers welcome Family Ambassadors, Community Ambassadors, and Volunteers and provide remarks. Speaker(s) will also announce official launch of Family Action Network. *Invite only*

**10:30am-11:30am:** Family Ambassadors begin meeting with state legislators in the Atrium and tell their stories. Activities for children continue, snacks and drinks available. *Invite only*

**11:30am-12:00pm:** Family Ambassadors “stroll” from the Statehouse Atrium to the West Lawn of the Statehouse for the rally. Family Ambassadors, Community Ambassadors, and Event Volunteers served boxed lunches to eat.

**12:00pm:** Rally begins, family-friendly entertainment and activities available on Statehouse West Lawn. *Open to public*

**12:00pm-2:00pm:** Rally continues, guest speakers address crowd. Family Ambassadors, Community Ambassadors, and Event Volunteers encouraged to participate in the rally. *Open to public*

**2:00pm:** Event concludes. Event volunteers help clean up/break down event, send off families.

###

# How can you help support?



## RECRUIT

## SUPPORT

## PROMOTE

**1.** Can you recruit & identify one or more FAMILY AMBASSADORS for the Groundwork Ohio Family Action Network?

We are seeking 99 Family Ambassadors from across the state in order to get representation.

YES

NO

Can you also identify a COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR to participate alongside one or more Family Ambassadors through the FAN training, *Strolling Thunder* and rally?

YES

**2.** Can you recruit & identify someone from your organization to participate as an EVENT VOLUNTEER on May 18th for the *Strolling Thunder* morning of action or the rally?

YES

NO

**3.** If you can't commit to participating in FAN activities or the events on May 18th (*Strolling Thunder* Morning of Action or the Rally), are you interested in committing resources (financial or in-kind) towards any or all of these efforts?

ie:

- Donate financial resources to support the training & development of Family Ambassadors, or the May 18th program.
- Donate financial resources to remove barriers to Family Ambassadors by participating in the Family Action Network and May 18th program.
- Provide in-kind support by allowing employees time off to participate in the May 18 rally.
- Coordinate and financially support transportation to support families and individuals participating in the rally.
- Identify unique in-kind resources that your organization could provide for the Family Ambassadors and/or the event programming.

YES

NO

**4.** If you can't commit to participating in FAN activities or the events on May 18th (*Strolling Thunder* Morning of Action or the Rally), are you willing to promote the rally through direct communication and/or social media with your organization's network, local community and other stakeholders or share Family Action Network activity on social media?

YES

NO

Please complete the **PARTNER INTEREST FORM** via Survey Monkey and email any other questions or concerns to [familyaction@groundworkohio.org](mailto:familyaction@groundworkohio.org) by **February 1, 2022.**