

Included in the Final FY 24-FY 25 Budget

Early Childhood Investments:

- \$30 million for child care infrastructure grants to increase infant and toddler child care capacity in communities with high infant mortality rates.
- \$124 million for preschool, a strong commitment led by the Governor and bolstered by the House that will serve more than 11,525 additional children.
- \$101.5 million to support Help Me Grow home visiting
- \$32 million to support infant vitality efforts.
- \$46.8 million to support Early Intervention
- \$15 million to support lead abatement and safety
- \$16 million to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio
- \$7 million to support Early Childhood Mental Health
- \$499 million to support Children's Services
- \$2.5 million to support the Ohio Fatherhood Commission
- \$8 million to support the Benefit Bridge Employer Pilot Program, a two-year pilot program that provides grants to eligible employers to provide incentives to employees who are on certain public assistance programs.

Early Childhood Policy:

- Creation of the new Department of Children and Youth
- An increase in the state's publicly funded child care program from 142% to 145%.
- Continuous Medicaid coverage for babies and toddlers, birth through age three, keeping Ohio's youngest Medicaid-eligible children accessing consistent health care services.
- A path forward for Medicaid reimbursement of doula services so Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and their babies can benefit from this critical, non-clinical support.
- Improved paid parental leave for state employees by tripling the paid parental leave period.
- A damaging policy to prohibit the state from adopting rules that require an administrator or employee of a licensed child care center or family child care to hold or obtain a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.
- A damaging policy to prohibit the ratings developed for Step Up to Quality to take into consideration whether an administrator or employee holds or obtains a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.

Early Childhood Veto:

- A line-item veto by Governor DeWine that preserves Ohio's quality child care system by preventing the exemption of most licensed, publicly funded child care programs from meeting Step Up to Quality rating requirements.

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- \$150 million of ARPA funds the Governor proposed to be designated to child care scholarships for critical occupations and direct service professionals
- Increased Medicaid Eligibility for pregnant women and babies to 300% FPL
- Creation of Medicaid coverage for children under the age of 19 adopted through private agencies with special health care needs