

# 2020: Charting the Course Ahead

REFLECTIONS FROM 2019  
AND A LOOK AT WHAT'S NEXT  
FOR OUR YOUNGEST OHIOANS!



# 2020: Charting the Course Ahead

## *Dear Friends,*

As we begin this new decade, we are humbled by the exciting and important work that lies ahead of us in the coming months and years. In the past twelve months, we have grown (from a small staff of three to a mighty staff of five), moved (to our own office in Clintonville), strengthened our organizational sustainability, and expanded our reach to new stakeholders, partners, and champions for young children.

Last year was a year of exploring, strategizing, and preparing. Our team worked hard throughout 2019 to engage with key stakeholders, delve deeper into state and local data, explore opportunities that support the health and development of young children in Ohio and deliver on policies and investments that improve the lives of our youngest and most vulnerable Ohioans. This work has deepened our knowledge base, expanded our organization's reach and improved the lives of children across the state. Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission—without you, this work would not be possible.

Our collective effort and experience has allowed us to chart a strong course forward in 2020. We enter this year with bold goals, strong support, an incredible staff, and a renewed energy for our work. In the coming months, we will be expanding our engagement to more stakeholders than ever before, developing new and innovative research and resources to support our advocacy, and advancing strong policies to transform outcomes for Ohio's youngest children.

As we've strategized around the exciting work that lies ahead for Groundwork, a clear theme has emerged for 2020: ENGAGE. Ohio is at a unique moment in time to make significant progress for young children in the coming year and, with your engagement, we can provide young children with the strong voice required to transform our early childhood system and better meet the needs of children, families and communities.

There will be countless opportunities to ENGAGE with us, whether at the Statehouse, in your community, or from the comfort of your office or home.

### Stay up to date on how you can take action:

- ➔ Click "Join Our Mailing List" (at the footer of [GroundworkOhio.org](http://GroundworkOhio.org))
- ➔ Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn @GroundworkOhio.

ENGAGE

We have BIG plans for our littlest Ohioans in 2020, and we look forward to continuing our work with you over the next year to create a brighter future for children, families, and the Great State of Ohio. But before we do, please join us in reflecting upon what an incredible year for young children we have enjoyed in 2019!



*Warm personal regards,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Shannon Jones**

*Executive Director, Groundwork Ohio*

# Our Work



## MISSION

To champion high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities.

## VISION

To make Ohio the best place to be a young child so that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Starting Early:** The basic principles of neuroscience demonstrate that early preventive intervention is more efficient and produce more favorable outcomes than remediation later in life. As we advance early learning and healthy development strategies to support all young children, we have to ensure that they reflect brain science by meeting the unique needs of children age birth through three years old.

**Systems Framework:** We approach this work from a systems perspective, recognizing the whole child, to promote alignment and avoid the creation of or deepening of silos and gaps among the many resources, programs, services and funding streams that young children and their families require.

**Equity:** All children deserve the chance to learn, grow, and reach their full potential but not all children have access to the same quality environments and interventions. Race, geography, age, gender, and physical and intellectual ability play a determinative role in the gaps that emerge early and persist throughout the lifespan.

**Research-Informed & Data-Driven:** We use data to determine needs, measure outcomes, and evaluate impact to ensure programs and systems are best supporting children and families.

**Targeted Investments:** We prioritize public investments that have proven outcomes for children and offer a high return on taxpayer dollars.

**Continuum of Support:** We understand that early childhood interventions are the foundation of a strong continuum of services for at-risk kids that support healthy development and learning throughout childhood and beyond.

**Collaboration:** The State of Ohio has a vision for young children in Ohio and we will promote a shared vision when possible.

# OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



## Healthy Development

Children who are born healthy, grow and develop in healthy environments, and have access to quality healthcare services have better physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their lives.



*Groundwork supports the healthy development of young children through policies and practices that:*

- Increase access to high-quality prenatal care.
- Expand coverage and access to high-quality healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP programs for young children and their families.
- Support early identification and treatment for young children faced with developmental delays (timely developmental screenings and early interventions).
- Reduce incidences of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma and increase access to programs that build resilience and mitigate its impact.
- Protect young children from lead hazards where they live and learn.



## Quality Early Learning

The early years of development lay the foundation for all learning that happens later in life. When children have access to high-quality learning experiences in the earliest years, they have better long-term health, education, and economic outcomes.



*Groundwork supports quality early learning through policies and practices that:*

- Increase access to voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services and Early Head Start.
- Expand access to high-quality publicly funded child care by increasing eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty level and supporting programs to become highly rated in Ohio's *Step Up to Quality* system.
- Expand access to high-quality preschool and Head Start programs.
- Support a quality early education workforce that is highly qualified and well compensated.



## Empowered Families

Families are the first and most important teachers and caregivers. A family's economic and environmental stability plays a critical role in a child's early development. When families have the resources and support to provide adequate care and enrichment during the earliest years, children can grow and thrive.



*Groundwork supports empowered families through policies and practices that:*

- Increase access to parenting and family support systems designed to prevent and treat behavioral and emotional problems in young children so that they can grow in their families, schools, and communities.
- Stabilize families so there are fewer young children engaged in the child welfare system and ensure young children in state custody, living in foster or kinship placements, experience a continuum of care and supported transitions.
- Foster economic stability for families with young children.



## CELEBRATING 2019 WINS FOR OUR YOUNGEST OHIOANS

The 2019 state budget process had an unprecedented focus on investing in Ohio's youngest children. With strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate and close cooperation between the Administration and General Assembly, the FY 20-21 includes a number of new investments to support quality early learning and healthy development for 0-5 year olds in Ohio.

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### Child Care/Preschool

Invests the additional \$198 million from the federal Child Care Development Block Grant in increased rates for publicly funded child care providers, invests \$10 million new state GRF for Quality Infrastructure Grants in FY 20 to support efforts to meet the 2020 and 2025 Step Up to Quality mandates, and includes a "hold harmless" ensuring no child care provider would experience a rate cut when reimbursement rates were updated effective July 1, 2019 and protects providers from 13 rural counties who would have seen a rate cut.

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### Home Visiting

Invests an additional \$30 million state GRF in Help Me Grow (bringing the total biennial investment to \$70 million) to support Governor DeWine's goal of tripling the number of families served by evidence-based home visiting programs.

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### Healthcare

Creates an enhanced primary care model (CPC for Kids) that supports improved health outcomes for children, a new care model that provides treatment to women with opiate use disorder and babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome in the same place at the same time, and extends Medicaid coverage for 12 months after delivery for new mothers.

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### Early Literacy

Invests \$5 million to create the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, which will support child literacy efforts in the state.

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### Housing

Invests \$5 million over the biennium in stable housing, including recovery housing, for youth and pregnant women.

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### Part C Early Intervention

Invests nearly \$25 million additional state funds over the biennium in Part C Early Intervention, much of which will support the new automatic eligibility for children who have tested positive for lead and babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome (effective July 1, 2019).

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### Lead Abatement

Leverages \$10 million in State Child Health Insurance Program dollars to fund investigations and abatement, creates a lead abatement tax credit and earmarks \$2 million of TANF funding over the biennium for the Lead-Safe Home Fund pilot program to support abatement efforts that prevent lead poisoning, which can be especially harmful to children during their early years of development.

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### Children Services

Increases support for children services including the Governor's and House's increased appropriations for county children services agencies and the Senate-restored set-aside for the kinship caregiver program to support children in PCSA custody, about 39% of which are under age 5.

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### Census

Develops a Complete Count Commission to be coordinated by the Ohio Development Services Agency and assist in the administration of the 2020 Census.

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### Early Learning Pilot Program

Invests \$2 million over the biennium in a pilot program targeted in rural communities to increase quality child care and enhance early learning.

# 2019 in Review



## BIG STEPS FORWARD FOR OUR YOUNGEST OHIOANS IN 2019

Over the past year, Groundwork has worked tirelessly to advance policies, conversations, and engagement opportunities that support the early learning and healthy development of Ohio's youngest and most vulnerable children. With your support, Groundwork...

### → SUPPORTED NEW INVESTMENTS IN YOUNG CHILDREN

Groundwork played a key role in sustaining and securing a number of new investments in the health and development of young children during the FY20-21 budget process—including investments in evidence-based home visiting, child care quality infrastructure grants, Part-C Early Intervention, the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, and more.

**49**  
**TESTIMONIES**  
given by Groundwork  
Ohio staff & stakeholders

**3,458**  
**POSTCARDS**  
**DELIVERED**  
to policymakers

### → ADVANCED EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY

Continuing our groundbreaking work from 2018's *Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report*, Groundwork has further advanced conversations across the state about the importance of working toward equitable outcomes for Ohio's youngest children.

Over the past 12 months, Groundwork facilitated:

**13**  
**EQUITY-FOCUSED**  
**EVENTS**  
in 8 different regions  
throughout Ohio

Engagement of nearly  
**900**  
**OHIOANS**  
in conversations around  
early childhood equity

### → DEEPENED RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICYMAKERS

Groundwork spent the past year deepening relationships with the individuals our state has charged with making big decisions about the support and funding of Ohio's child-serving systems. Groundwork staff engaged members of local government, the legislature, and the administration in state and national convenings to strategize around opportunities to support kids in the earliest years.

In 2019, Groundwork staff:

Participated in and supported  
stakeholders in nearly  
**250**  
**MEETINGS**  
with state & federal policy makers





## MOBILIZED PASSIONATE STAKEHOLDERS

Throughout 2019, Groundwork engaged and mobilized stakeholders from every corner of the state through more than 30 presentations and trainings, with nearly 300 attendees at the *Laying the Groundwork Summit*, and through our interactive advocacy toolkit.

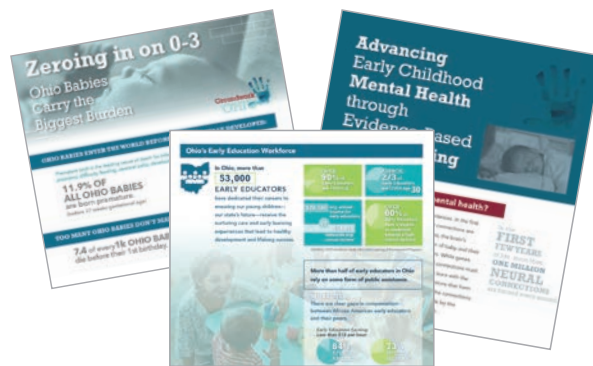
**30**  
**PRESENTATIONS**  
**& TRAININGS**  
to Ohio stakeholders

**300**  
**ATTENDEES**  
at our  
Summit event

## DISSEMINATED RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Groundwork has continued to create and disseminate high-quality resources to help educate key decisionmakers about the need to invest in quality early learning and health and to support advocates around Ohio. Our 2019 resource development included the *Advancing Early Childhood Mental Health through Evidence-Based Home Visiting* report, public responses to state and federal requests for comment, and several new fact sheets.

**14**  
**NEW RESOURCES RELEASED**



## AMPLIFIED OUR MESSAGE

During the past year, Groundwork has further amplified our strong message for quality early learning and health in Ohio. Our efforts were featured in 33 news articles, our social media reach expanded by 43 percent with 781,821 impressions, and our newsletter audience increased by 152%.



Social Media reach expanded by

**43%**

**{ 781,821 IMPRESSIONS }**



### Featured in **33** NEWS ARTICLES



# 2019 Funders

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK IN 2019!

- Alliance for Early Success
- Anonymous Donor
- Bruening Foundation
- Cleveland Foundation
- George Gund Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
- PNC Grow Up Great
- Pritzker Children's Initiative
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati

And a special thank you to all those who sponsored  
our ***Laying the Groundwork Summit!***

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