



VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN

Who are our community's children?

- **In Cuyahoga County**
 - 20% of children live in poverty
 - 12% are uninsured
 - 10% are known to the child welfare system
 - 55% of those who need mental health services go untreated.
- **In Ohio**
 - A child is born into poverty every 21 minutes
 - 275,000 children are without health insurance.
 - A child in Ohio dies before her first birthday every 7 hours.



What does Voices believe?

- No child in Ohio should fear for his/her safety.
- Children and their families should have access to physical and behavioral health services to meet their needs.
- Every child should be given the opportunity to learn and succeed.
- Every parent in Ohio should have access to resources that allow them to provide and maintain financial support for their children.



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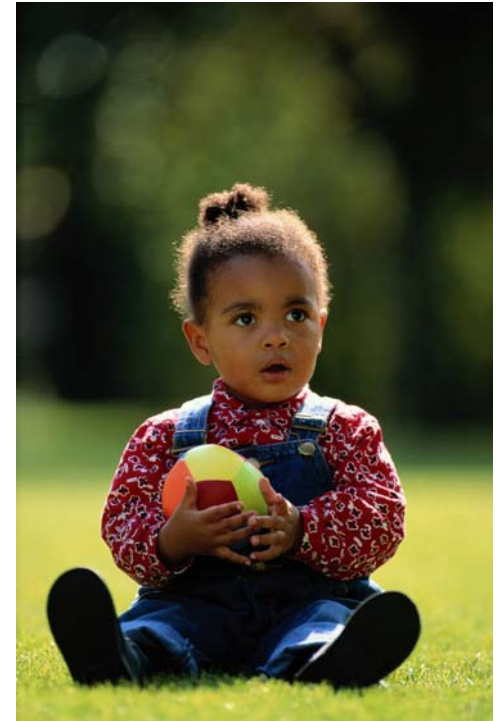
How does Voices speak out for children?

- Member committees work with staff to determine policy issues in the areas of **health, education, safety** and **economic well-being**.
- Members and staff advocate, develop policy, present legislative testimony, and educate legislators and the voting public about children's issues.



Federal Children's Issues

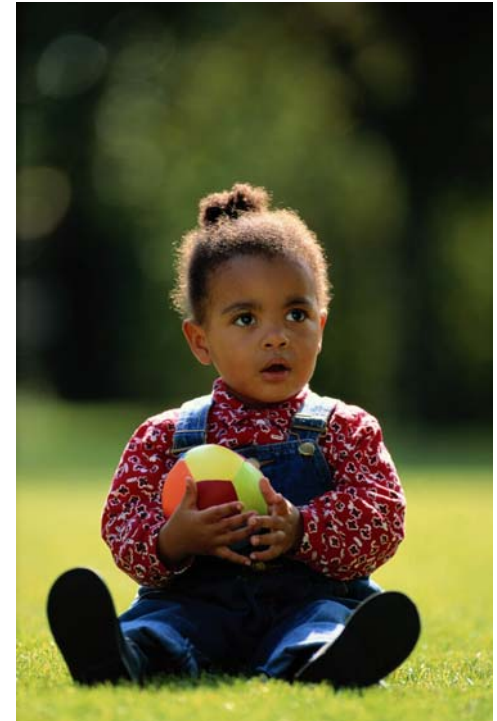
- Reemergence of Deficit Politics
- Budget Rules & Entitlement Caps
- Headstart and Early Headstart Reauthorization
- TANF and Child Care Block Grant Reauthorization
- IDEA Reauthorization
- School Lunch
- Medicaid & SCHIP
- No Child Left Behind





Federal Children's Issues

- Key actors include:
 - President
 - Executive Agencies
 - Congress
 - Authorization Committees
 - Budget Committee
 - Appropriations
- Most Education, Health & Social Service programs are shared federal-state responsibilities





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State Children's Issues

Health

- Children's Mental Health
- Children's Health Insurance
- Help Me Grow
- Tobacco control
- Environmental health issues
- Immunizations
- Prenatal services

Economic Well-Being

- Child care
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food bank funding
- Fatherhood programs
- T.E.A.C.H. program
- Refundable EITC and child care tax credit

Safety

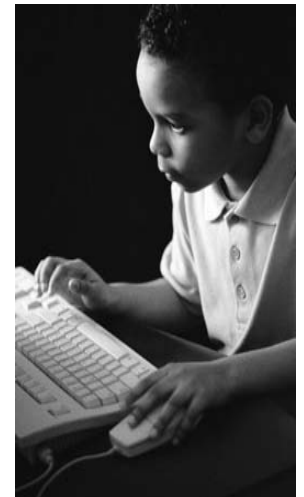
- Child welfare funding
- Medicaid coverage for Independent Living program participants
- Foster care and kinship care
- Adoption services

Education

- School funding
- Ohio Head Start
- Community school accountability
- Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid
- Early education programs

General

- Revenue increases
- Tax reform

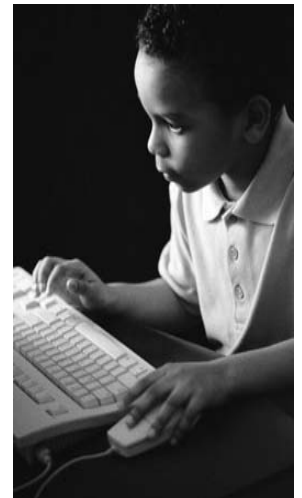




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State Children's Issues

- Federal programs, jointly administered by the state, have predetermined requirements and require state financial participation.
 - Influences state spending (e.g. Medicaid, TANF, CCDBG)
- Key actors include members of the General Assembly (Finance Committees), the Governor, Executive Agencies.
- Structural deficit (\$3.5 to \$4.1 billion)
- Tax Reform (Sufficient Revenues & Equity?)
- Tax Expenditure Limitation/Size of Government
- Federal and State initiatives are also responsibilities of local governments in Ohio.





TEL/TABOR

- Constitutional Amendment by Ohioans for Tax Reform referred to as TEL, (tax and expenditure limits), or TABOR (taxpayers' bill of rights) puts an artificial cap on local and state spending.
- Passage of this amendment would dramatically limit state investment in education, health care, services for seniors, environmental protection, economic development activities and many other public services that improve the quality of life for all Ohioans.



Local Children's Issues



- **Work to maintain county's current general revenue fund commitment for health and human services**
- **Safety**
 - Adoption services
 - Services for transitional youth
 - Additional resources for juvenile Drug Court
 - Children Who Witness Violence Program
 - Family preservation
 - Pediatric S.A.N.E. unit
- **Health**
 - Early Childhood Initiative, Help Me Grow
 - Mental Health in Schools, Early Childhood Mental Health, Family Supports
 - Immunization services
 - Teen pregnancy
 - Respite services
 - Residential drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services
 - Environmental health issues
- **Economic Well-Being**
 - Fatherhood Initiative
 - More collaboration between City and County WIA
 - Earned Income Tax Credit outreach
 - T.E.A.C.H. Initiative
 - Transitional jobs
 - Fatherhood programs



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Local Children's Issues

- Local governments are administrative arms of the state government...the federal and state government sets many of the rules.
- County Budget
- Key actors: Commissioners, Administrator, Agency Directors, Independent Boards
- Levy Driven Funding