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Backgrounder: Voices for Ohio's Children

Voices for Ohio's Children is a non-partisan group of public, not-for-profit and private sector organizations and individuals who share a mutual concern about improving the well-being of our community's children and their families. Through a collaborative effort and a collective voice, Voices promotes improvements in the well being of our community's children and their families.

Voices serves a unique and vital role in the community that no other organization is playing. Small child-serving non-profits that cannot afford to hire their own advocacy specialist utilize Voices as a mechanism to stay informed and influence policy. Voices was founded on the principle that in order to build a greater community, we need to begin with greater kids. As such, Voices is committed to providing a voice and raising the consciousness of Ohioans for children.

As part of these efforts, Voices has created a "clearinghouse" of experts and information on the children and human services issues likely to be detailed, discussed and debated throughout the state budget process over the next few months. To help elected officials, policy makers, and media navigate these complex issues, Voices has identified experts in the areas of:

- Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid;
- Child Welfare, Adoption, and Foster Care;
- Early Childcare and Education;
- Food and Nutrition;
- Help Me Grow; and
- Juvenile Justice

In addition, Voices for Ohio's Children maintains a content-rich Web site which houses detailed information for each of Ohio's 88 counties. Advocates, the media and policy makers can find up to date, critical county-level, demographic and child data in one place. These Child Data Fact Sheets provide a snapshot of children in every community, how children and families benefit from existing health and human service programs and where gaps exist. This information, as well as information related to key legislation and policy proposals, can be found at www.vfc-oh.org and clicking on the News tab.