



Children's Defense Fund–Ohio

A strong, effective, independent voice for *all* children

Help Us Make 2016 a Bright Year for Children

Season's Greetings!

Our Children's Defense Fund-Ohio team has been working hard as we change our corner of the world for the better. Your end of year donation will support all the children we serve, including our [five exceptional 2015 CDF-OH Beat the Odds® scholarship winners](#), and the more than 1,000 scholars who had the CDF Freedom Schools® experience in 25 program sites across the state last summer. Your generous support will move forward policies to promote the well-being of Ohio's children, from reducing infant mortality and childhood hunger to reforming ineffective school discipline practices and improving access to health care.

[Please consider Children's Defense Fund-Ohio in your charitable giving plan.](#) Your generous support will bring awareness to issues that hurt Ohio's children, and allow CDF-OH to provide in-depth and comprehensive research within our region to help improve the well-being of all children in Ohio's rural, urban and Appalachian areas. Look for our new report soon on the state of child well-being in Appalachian Ohio, the first comprehensive one since 2001.

As 2015 comes to a close, and we prepare for the new year, please make a tax-deductible donation to Children's Defense Fund-Ohio in support of our work to help ensure Ohio's children have a safe and healthy childhood and a successful passage to adulthood. Remember, each dollar you give can help make the future of Ohio's children brighter!

DONATE NOW

CDF-Ohio needs your help more than ever

[Click on DONATE NOW](#) or send a check, payable to Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, to:
395 E. Broad St., Suite 330, Columbus, OH 43215

Welcome Michael Corey, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio Policy Analyst!

In October, Michael Corey joined Children's Defense Fund-Ohio after working for the past three years as a healthcare attorney at a large Columbus-based law firm. With a general healthcare practice, Michael represented large and small healthcare systems and associations on a wide range of issues, including the drafting of an amicus brief to the Ohio Supreme Court advocating for Medicaid expansion. Michael has also served as a Legal Fellow in the Washington D.C. office of a U.S. Senator, and has held positions with the [Kirwan Institute at The Ohio State University](#), the [Children's Hunger Alliance](#), and the [Ohio Board of Regents](#). A Columbus native, Michael is a graduate of Duke University, and holds an M.A. from Ohio State's School of Education Policy & Leadership, and a J.D. from Ohio State's Moritz College of Law, where he served as Executive Editor of the *Ohio State Law Journal*. We are delighted to have his expertise focused on the needs of Ohio's children!



Ohio's Appalachian Children Focus of 2016 Report

Did you know that nearly 1 in 5 Ohio children live in one of the 32 counties considered part of the state's Appalachian region? Children's Defense Fund-Ohio and our regional based [partners](#) are excited to announce the upcoming release of a new report focused on child well-being in this part of Ohio. In addition to providing data on wide range of topics, the report will make specific recommendations to address the unique needs of children in the region. Look for the report's release during the first quarter of 2016.



Truancy Reforms Emphasize Intervention, Avoiding Juvenile Detention

Throughout our efforts to reform school discipline policies, a theme has emerged: [We want to keep children out of the juvenile justice system and in school.](#) Revising truancy and school discipline laws, which currently permit school districts to submit children to juvenile court without requiring intervention measures, are a relatively easy way to prevent scores of children from entering the juvenile justice system. With legislation having been introduced this week in the Ohio House, and on the cusp of being introduced in the Ohio Senate, Children's Defense Fund-Ohio is working with our partners on the [Ohio Juvenile Justice Alliance](#) to write common-sense truancy laws that would go as far as possible in preventing truant children from ending up in juvenile court.

Upcoming Policy Brief: The Urgency of Combating Early Childhood Hunger

It is now wholly agreed. High quality early childhood care and education is essential to the fight against poverty. With 25% of our children in Ohio food insecure, we know that fighting early childhood hunger is critical to a child's future success. Our upcoming policy series will highlight the extent of early childhood hunger, the myriad negative effects it has on development, health, and education. The brief also explores the availability of one federal program—the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)—to help combat early childhood hunger.



Support for Hardworking Ohio Families Through Permanent Tax Credits

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio along with our advocacy partners urge Congress to make permanent the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit improvements of 2008-09, which would ensure continued stability for Ohio's hard working families. Congress has an opportunity to act this fall to protect these critical provisions before they expire, and to avoid plunging 172,000 Ohio children into poverty. The provisions that are set to expire have three primary benefits: (1) They reduce the marriage penalty that some two-earner families face in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); (2) They increase the EITC for families with more than two children to reflect their higher living costs; and (3) They ensure the Child Tax Credit's (CTC) pro-work incentive is not lost for very low-wage workers. Together, these tax credits are among the nation's strongest tools to promote work over dependency, and they effectively help working families escape poverty and become self-sufficient. In our state, more than 400,000 working families—with 778,000 children—earn these tax credits and use the income to pay for a range of goods and services that keep them working, from child care to car repairs.

SAVE THE DATE!

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio's annual [Beat the Odds® Awards Celebration](#) will be held the evening of May 19, 2016 in Columbus.



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