



# children's defense fund ohio

January 6, 2019

**Pamela Kreber, Associate Director**  
614-221-2244  
[pkreber@childrensdefense.org](mailto:pkreber@childrensdefense.org)

**Dr. Tracy Nájera, Executive Director**  
614-221-2244  
[tnajera@childrensdefense.org](mailto:tnajera@childrensdefense.org)

## **Kim Eckhart Joins Children's Defense Fund-Ohio to Lead Ohio KIDS Count Project**

COLUMBUS – Children's Defense Fund-Ohio (CDF-Ohio) is proud to announce that Kim Eckhart will be joining its team to lead Ohio KIDS COUNT Project. KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States.

Kim Eckhart brings nearly 15 years of experience in public administrations, most recently with Columbus State Community College. After earning her undergraduate degree from Marietta College and a Master's in Economics from The Ohio State University, she has worn many professional hats, including service as budget management analyst with Ohio's Office of Budget and Management, fiscal officer with Ohio's Air Quality Development Board, as well as financial analyst and project management with Columbus State Community College. Her most recent project was launching the Mid-Ohio Market, a new concept for a food pantry serving college students who face food insecurity. In her role as analyst, she used data to inform policy proposals related to higher education.

Ms. Eckhart's passion is serving youth affected by foster care and family instability due to incarceration. She serves on the board of Starfish Alliance, is on the board of two other organizations serving this population, and mentors students ranging from elementary to college age. She also participated in Columbus State's SPARK Advisory committee and the Scholar Network, a support group for students aging out of foster care.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kim Eckhart to the CDF-Ohio team. Kim's experience in financial and data analyses and broad knowledge of policies – ranging from education finance, higher education, and food insecurity – in addition to her service to Columbus's foster child community, bring great depth to our work with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS Count Project."

###

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.