

CHILD POVERTY

In the United States, the wealthiest nation on earth, and in Ohio, nearly 1 in 5 children live in poverty before the pandemic. These children often face inadequate health care and nutrition, untreated illness, lack of child care, unstable housing and under-resourced schools.

CDF-Ohio believes that we must do more for the nearly 500,000 across our state who live in poverty so that they can thrive and flourish into adulthood. Every child that does not have their basic needs met represents so much lost potential for them and for our communities.

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio recommends the following steps to protect and enhance the well-being of all Ohio families:

- 1. Family Paid Leave.** When children get sick, many parents and caregivers lose income to care for them. We need a paid leave policy for Ohio. The pandemic only worsened this situation with so many schools and child care centers closing and reducing capacity. The HEROES Act addressed paid leave for some workers, but left out 106 million people, many of whom are front line workers. A more comprehensive plan to help parents and caregivers is needed.
- 2. Child Tax Credits.** Families with children under 6 have higher rates of poverty than those with older children. Research shows that child tax credits and earned income tax credits are powerful anti-poverty tools. Expand the child credits available per year, per child and expand Ohio's earned income tax credit.
- 3. CARES Act Funding allocation.** Local governments should use CARES Act relief funding for housing support to help low-income families avoid evictions. An eviction moratorium alone only kicks the can down the road, putting families at risk of eviction after the moratorium



FAST FACTS

In 2019, more than 1 in 5 children under the age of 6 in Ohio lived in poverty.

Almost half of Black children under the age of 6 in Ohio were in poverty (46%).

The 2019 data shows poverty before COVID-19 struck. It is estimated that over 40% of households with children had difficulty paying for usual expenses during the pandemic.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. Many families throughout Ohio were caught unprepared and without needed support when the pandemic hit our state. What can you do now and in the longterm to support our parents who need paid leave to care for their children when they are sick or when they become sick?
2. COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated how many families throughout Ohio need additional support to make ends meet, especially parents of young children. What is your plan now and in the longterm to help young families who are struggling financially to meet their basic needs?