

# MAKE KIDS COUNT

Recommendations for local governments using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding

View your KIDS COUNT County Profile

[cdf.ohio.org/policy/resources/kids-count/](https://cdf.ohio.org/policy/resources/kids-count/)

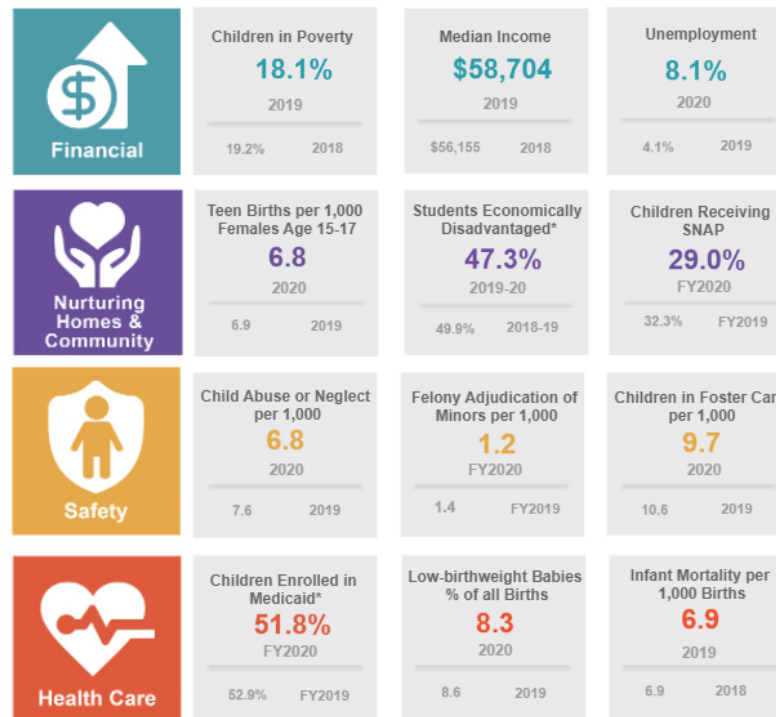
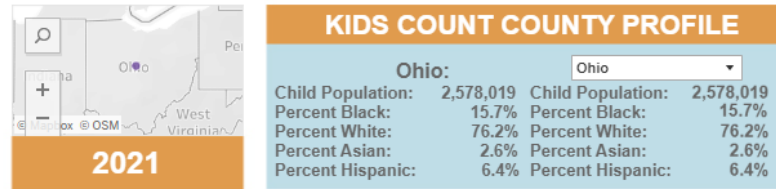
## Develop a process to allocate local ARPA funds that includes the following principles:

**Highlight data**  
Use local data like the KIDS COUNT County Profiles to inform decisions

**Focus on equity**  
Use data disaggregated by race and work toward closing gaps

**Engage community voice**  
Plan public forums and create a process for submitting proposals

**Create transparency**  
Include processes, deadlines, and final decisions on public websites



Local communities have unique needs reflected in the KIDS COUNT profiles, and a one size-fits-all approach is ineffective. We call on our state and local policy makers to engage in a data-driven and transparent process that elevates community voices to allocate these funds and continue to transform our communities into places where our children and families can thrive and flourish.

- **Child Poverty** Leading up to the pandemic, the number of children in poverty had declined to 18.1% and median income in Ohio rose, but in 2020, unemployment spiked to 8.1% threatening to erase those gains.
- **Family Stability** Ohio saw a 97% increase in unemployment from 2019 to 2020, 4.1% to 8.1%, resulting in many families throughout the state losing their employment and as a result – their health insurance.
- **Child Health** Overall, fewer children were enrolled in Medicaid. Children enrolled in Medicaid decreased by almost 2% in FY2020, which covered the start of the public health emergency.
- **Education** 86% of students graduated in 2019, setting a high pre-pandemic benchmark, up from 78% in 2010.

