

Statement on the Governor's Budget from Ohio Children's Alliance CEO Mark Mecum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (March 15, 2019) – We share the belief held by Governor DeWine, expressed in his state of the state address, that everyone—no matter where you were born or who your parents are—deserves the chance to succeed. The Governor delivered on this commitment in first budget proposal.

The budget significantly increases funding to community agencies who are change makers to vulnerable families and children. By targeting funding to child welfare, behavioral health, and education, the Governor's plan builds a foundation for all kids, families, and communities to thrive.

During a time in which Ohio faces many grave challenges, chief among them the opiate crisis, we need a bold plan to move our state forward. The Governor's budget would provide critical investments to community agencies and schools who are on the front lines of preventing addiction, responding to it, and connecting families with treatment.

We are pleased in the Governor's recognition of several data-informed programs that are making a difference in our communities. The Governor's budget would expand funding to the Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) program, which supports children and parents impacted by addiction with evidence-based services. The budget also expands funding to Ohio's Bridges program which connects young adults aging out of foster care with stable jobs, safe housing, and network of trusted adult mentors.

The Ohio Children's Alliance agrees that the Governor's proposed budget is a bold and ambitious plan that invests in Ohio's future. Ohio's community agencies that serve vulnerable children and families are eager to get to work to implement the Governor's plan and to help move our state forward.

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Ohio Children's Alliance is a nonprofit association representing Ohio's foster care and behavioral health organizations.

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