

# INVESTING in Ohio's FUTURE

BUDGET OF THE STATE OF OHIO | FISCAL YEARS 2022-2023

## What Ohio's Behavioral Health Community is Saying

- **NAMI Ohio**

*"NAMI Ohio applauds Governor DeWine and his team for their continued commitment to the most vulnerable in Ohio, those with serious mental illness. Those with serious mental illness continue to be over-represented in our jails, homeless shelters and on the streets of Ohio. These special folks continue to have a life expectancy rate 8 ½ years less than the general population. The ongoing need for basic supports such as food, housing, crisis intervention and care coordination must be addressed at the local, state and federal levels. This budget is a huge step forward in moving us to a person-centered approach by investing in care coordination and housing with an enhanced focus on adults with serious mental illness.*



*Governor DeWine promised to address the fragmented system of care and is delivering by addressing the core elements of those most in need of basic supports within the mental health delivery system. The \$11 million investment to strengthen cross-system collaboration begins to address issues such as continued readmissions into inpatient hospitals, the revolving cycle of repeated incarcerations, and lack of transition as those with serious mental illness seek to live full lives in the community. Furthermore, NAMI looks forward to working with the General Assembly to maintain this safety net funding for those with serious mental illness."*

*Also, NAMI Ohio applauds the Governor and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for their efforts to improve group homes for those with serious mental illness. The \$12 million allocation to improve the quality in these homes could not come at a better time with limited housing options and a freeze on admissions due to COVID-19. "During this COVID Pandemic, the Governor and Department have committed a sizable amount of time, energy and resources to ensure the 700+ group homes had testing, PPEs and vaccinations. This budget allocation is just a continuation of Governor DeWine and Director Lori Criss' commitment to the individuals with serious mental illness that call these residential settings home. Early on in Governor DeWine's term, NAMI Ohio proposed that a priority be made to serve those with severe and persistent mental illness through a focus on community-based supports beyond what the current system is providing. This budget proposal is just another step and example of how the Governor and his Administration have listened to the cries of individuals and their families we represent."*

**– Terry Russell, Executive Director**

- **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities**

*We applaud Governor DeWine, Director Criss, and the Administration for introducing a biennial budget that continues to prioritize services and supports for Ohioans experiencing mental illness and/or substance use disorders. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the isolation, the uncertainty, the increased stress, and the sustained community-wide trauma will be felt for years to come. Now, more than ever, the community mental health and addiction system needs enhanced funding to support the increasing demand for care. The resources included in the budget proposal are a good start and we look forward to working with the Administration and the General Assembly to increase access to prevention, treatment and recovery support programs and services throughout our state that make recovery a reality for individuals and families in need.*



– **Cheri Walter, CEO**

- **Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers**

*“I applaud Governor Mike DeWine and the administration for developing an executive budget that continues and strengthens key investments to support the health and wellbeing of Ohio’s children and families, expands access to mental health and addiction treatment services, and implements strategic improvements to Ohio’s Medicaid program. The important policy initiatives and funding priorities included in the executive budget that support student wellness and success, expand broadband, grow our workforce, and strengthen the behavioral health continuum of care particularly in the areas of crisis services and care coordination for adults with serious mental illness, will pay dividends far into the future. As Ohio continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic while simultaneously fighting the scourge of the opioid epidemic and meeting the rising demand for mental health and addiction treatment services, these investments are vital to restoring the health of our communities, workforce, and restoring Ohio’s economy. The Ohio Council looks forward to working with the DeWine Administration, the Ohio General Assembly, and other advocates as the state budget for the upcoming biennium is examined, debated, and ultimately enacted into law.”*



– **Teresa Lampl, CEO**

- **Prevention Action Alliance**

*“Prevention Action Alliance thanks the DeWine Administration for its leadership and thoughtful consideration in developing a budget to meet the challenges facing the State as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic and continuing substance misuse crisis. We are appreciative of this budget’s protection of the continuum of care, with its commitment to ensure that prevention, treatment, and recovery services are available to all Ohio residents. Prevention Action Alliance supports the development of a framework to reduce the impact of mental, emotional, and behavioral health-related problems, including substance misuse, and the provision of early intervention to young people. The pandemic has underscored the importance of providing evidence-based prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services to all Ohioans. The*



*initiatives proposed in the budget will ensure that resiliency and health are the outcomes achieved for all individuals and communities. We recognize the strength of community-based solutions and support the budget priority that empowers families and communities. Prevention Action Alliance applauds the DeWine Administration for its commitment to an equitable system of care, and that identifying and meeting the needs of all people in every community in Ohio will be a priority.”*

**– Fran Gerbig, Executive Director**

- **Ohio Children’s Alliance**

*“The Ohio Children’s Alliance is supportive of many of the budget goals and provisions that OhioMHAS has put forward in the proposed Executive Budget. It is clear that children and families continue to remain a priority for the Department, as evidenced by their commitment early intervention, racial equity, and behavioral health workforce. Finding solutions to the Ohio’s behavioral health workforce shortage is critical. We are excited to partner with the Department and Administration to see these Budget goals come to fruition.”*



**– Mark Mecum, CEO**

- **Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery**

*“Over the last decade, our community has seen much despair and devastation due to the addiction epidemic. The proposed budget offers a sense of hope to a community of people who are in need. With additional resources to recovery housing and recovery supports, people can enter and sustain long term recovery. We are so grateful for the leadership of Director Criss and her team in the development of budget that reflects what the community needs.*

*Supporting people throughout the lifespan of their illness ensures that communities and its members can thrive. Thank you to Governor DeWine, Recovery Ohio, and OhioMHAS for the consistent support of those in recovery from a substance use disorder. These efforts do not go unnoticed and have made an impact in the communities of Ohio.”*

**– Sarah Thompson, Executive Director**



- **Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition**

*“The Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC) appreciates Governor DeWine’s support of behavioral health in the proposed Executive Budget. Maintaining support for these services recognizes their critical value to the health of Ohio’s families and communities. The MHAC looks forward to working with the Administration and the Ohio General Assembly to ensure all Ohioans can access the behavioral health services they need, when they need them.”*



**– Joan Englund, Executive Director**