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Dear Mayor-Elect Bibb,

These funds present myriad ways to invest in programs and strategies that prevent or otherwise address the root causes of challenging childhood conditions. In order to capture all available funding and build internal expertise on allowable fund deployment, we recommend that a specific Administration team be identified to track and understand fully how federal funds can be used. Throughout this briefing book, members of our coalition have identified in their issue briefs many opportunities to effectively invest federal funds to aid and benefit Cleveland children. Support for this work can also be engaged through the Center for Community Solutions' new Greater Cleveland American Rescue Plan Council.

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit these recommendations, and we request the opportunity





# EDUCATION

Cleveland Transformation Alliance  
Cleveland's Plan for Transforming School (The Cleveland Plan)  
[myCLEschool.org](http://myCLEschool.org)

### Summary

In 2012, community leaders developed Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools, a citywide school improvement initiative to reinvent Cleveland's public education. Its goals are twofold: to effect lasting systemic change in Cleveland's education system and strengthen educational outcomes for all students in Cleveland public schools, both district and charter. The Cleveland Transformation Alliance (CTA) was created to oversee the implementation of the Plan.

Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools outlines six strategies for CTA: (1) Publish and widely distribute an annual report on the quality of all Cleveland's schools (district and charter); (2) Implement ongoing, consistent, and two-way communication and engagement with students, families, educators, and other stakeholders about high-quality education and the Cleveland Plan; (3) Raise awareness about available high-quality teaching and learning options in the city and how to access them; (4) Periodically revisit and refine the Cleveland Plan with stakeholder input and innovate best practices; (5) Participate in local, state, and federal advocacy efforts that support the policy and funding needed to implement the Cleveland Plan; and (6) Identify and actively engage a broad array of partners to support and successfully implement the Cleveland Plan.

### Critical Information

CTA is a registered non-profit chaired by the Mayor of Cleveland that assesses the quality of all district and charter schools in Cleveland, communicates to parents about quality school options; monitors charter sector growth; and ensures fidelity to the Cleveland Plan. CTA strengthens families by providing the information needed to make school choices based on their child's individual needs and interests. Our programs are built around our guiding principle that when a child is excited about their school and learning, they will feel safe, nurtured, and inspired to learn and succeed. This, in turn, means more stability for the family.

The Alliance is currently developing its first-ever strategic plan, focused on a five-year vision, and centered on two projects that will be able to adapt to future needs of and changes in the community landscape. The final plan is anticipated by the end of October 2021.

### Priorities for the Next Mayor of Cleveland

- Advocate for the Cleveland Transformation Alliance as a resource for families to make informed school choice decisions.
- As chair of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, work with the other members of the CTA Board to help build impactful collaborations to further the goals of the Cleveland Plan.
- Continue to advocate for the benefit and success of all public education in Cleveland.
- Help the Cleveland Transformation Alliance build organizational capacity.

### Further Reading

- [Refreshed Cleveland Plan](#)
- [2020 Cleveland Plan Progress Report \(Note: 2021 Report anticipated by 10/29/21\)](#)

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PRE4CLE  
High-Quality Preschool  
[pre4cle.org](http://pre4cle.org)

### Summary

PRE4CLE is a plan to expand access to high-quality preschool to all 3- and 4-year-old children in Cleveland. PRE4CLE helps families find and enroll in high-quality preschool programs, connects preschool providers to tools and resources to increase their quality and serve more children, and provides strategic leadership and advocacy to accelerate the availability of high-quality preschool in Cleveland. Research shows high-quality preschool prepares children for success in kindergarten, throughout school, and into adulthood. The vision of PRE4CLE is that every child in Cleveland enters kindergarten ready to succeed.

PRE4CLE is part of Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools and is led by the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact. Starting Point and The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio act as the lead agencies for PRE4CLE.

### Critical Information

When PRE4CLE began in 2014, lack of access to high-quality preschool was a driving factor in only 16 percent of children entering kindergarten in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) fully prepared, as measured by Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Due to the work of PRE4CLE and our partners, enrollment in high-quality preschool increased by 72 percent between 2014 and 2020, with greater access to high-quality preschool in nearly every Cleveland neighborhood. This resulted in an eight-percentage point increase in kindergarten readiness among children entering CMSD and contributed to rising literacy rates in kindergarten through third grade. PRE4CLE's advocacy efforts have also helped to secure an additional \$100 million in new state and local funding for early learning programs in Cuyahoga County along with critical supports for quality improvement, evaluation, and expansion of high-quality preschool.

### Priorities for the next Mayor of Cleveland

- Continue to prioritize access to high-quality preschool as a core goal of The Cleveland Plan.
- Work with PRE4CLE and other early learning partners to prioritize early learning within the ARPA investment strategy.
- Work with Mayors across Ohio to support additional state investments in high-quality early education.

### Further Reading

- [PRE4CLE's 2019 Annual Report](#)
- [PRE4CLE's Request for ARPA Funds for Early Learning Spaces](#)
- [Ohioans Have Spoken - It's Time to Invest in Early Learning. Groundwork Ohio](#)

### Contact

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Say Yes Cleveland  
[SayYesCleveland.org](https://www.sayyescleveland.org)

### Summary

Say Yes Cleveland (SYC) is an independent, local organization that launched in 2019 to provide two big things for Cleveland's students: support services throughout school and scholarships after high school.

SYC support services are intended to help students from PreK through 12th grade overcome barriers and stay on-track for success. This year, Say Yes support services are available in 69 CMSSD and partner charter schools and will be offered in all CMSSD and partner charter schools by the fall of 2022. Services include afterschool programming, legal services, mental and physical health services, and a Family Support Specialist based in each school to connect students and families to needed assistance.

SYC also provides scholarships covering the cost of college or postsecondary tuition, after federal and state grants, to every eligible graduate of a CMSSD or a partner charter high school, for the next 25 years. Say Yes scholarships can be used at all public universities, community colleges, and Pell-eligible certificate programs in Ohio – as well as over 100 private colleges and universities across the nation. To be eligible for scholarships, students must enroll in a CMSSD (or partner charter) high school from 9th grade through graduation and live within the City of Cleveland (or CMSSD boundaries) from 9th grade through graduation.

### Critical Information

- From CMSSD's classes of 2019 and 2020, nearly 1,200 Cleveland students have enrolled in college or career training through SYC. The organization has already paid out more than \$3 million in scholarships.
- During the past school year, SYC Family Support Specialists logged more than 40,000 case notes about individual students, making nearly 6,000 individual referrals for services and support. Referrals were usually in the areas of mental health assistance, food insecurity, and medical and legal assistance.

### Priorities for the next Mayor of Cleveland

- Continue the City of Cleveland's leadership role as one of the original conveners of SYC.
- Work with CMSSD and other partners to keep SYC a priority for the community.

### Further Reading

- [Say Yes Cleveland's 2020 Report](#)
- [SYC 2021 Update](#)

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Starting Point  
Child Care and Early Education  
[starting-point.org](http://starting-point.org)

Summary

Starting Point is a non-profit organization working to ensure that high-quality learning opportunities are available to every child in our community, regardless of where they were born, their race, or their ZIP code. Starting Point's services achieve a dual purpose: providing a safe place for children and youth so their parents can work while giving young brains the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Starting Point is designated by the State of Ohio as Cuyahoga County's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency; it also serves in this capacity for Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake Counties. In this role, Starting Point connects children, youth, and families to high-quality child care, pre-school





Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood  
Invest in Children  
Early Childhood  
[Investinchildren.cuyahogacounty.us](http://Investinchildren.cuyahogacounty.us)

### Summary

Invest in Children is a public-private partnership that mobilizes resources and energy to ensure the well-being of all young children in Cuyahoga County. We provide supportive services to parents and caregivers, advocate, and build awareness and momentum in the community. We aim to achieve equity in access to services and eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in child and family outcomes. Our programs include the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program (UPK), as well as early childhood literacy and mental health efforts, programs to support pregnancy and infant health, and advocacy work to ensure the needs of young children and families are considered in public policy. More than half of our clients reside in the city of Cleveland.

### Critical Information

The UPK program is the gold standard of high-quality preschool at sites throughout the city of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Thirty-four of our UPK Preschools are in the city of Cleveland, where we partner with organizations like Starting Point and PRE4CLE to deliver a great experience for families and kids. The program's funding and guidance enables training, technical assistance, parent engagement activities, and an array of quality enhancements, along with scholarships to make high-quality care available to both low- and moderate-income families. The UPK Program has achieved proven results:

- 66 percent of children who regularly attended a UPK program were “on track” for language and literacy milestones at kindergarten entry, compared with 47% of similar children who attended pre-school at a high-quality non-UPK site.
- Children who regularly attended a UPK program scored 7 points higher on the Social Foundations test for kindergarten readiness than those not enrolled in UPK.

### Priorities for the next Mayor of Cleveland

- Ensure that high-quality preschool options in the city of Cleveland remain available and accessible to all families with young children.
- Fully support the MomsFirst program and other home visiting programs within the Cleveland Department of Public Health to reduce infant mortality, and the high level of racial inequity in newborn health outcomes.
- As a strategy in the city's efforts to eliminate lead poisoning, support the work of the Lead Screening and Testing Commission within the Cleveland Department of Public Health, to identify and support the high number of young children with elevated blood lead levels.

### Further Reading

- [Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program Evaluation](#)
- [Early Childhood Lead Exposure in Cuyahoga County and the Impact on Kindergarten Readiness](#)
- [Sleep Related Deaths in the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County](#)

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# HEALTH

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## Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

[leadsafecle.org](https://leadsafecle.org)

### Summary

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is an inclusive public-private partnership founded in 2019 to address the lead poisoning crisis through a comprehensive, preventive, and long-term approach. Today, the Coalition has over 500 members, representing over 150 cross-sector organizations including community stakeholders, all who believe that no child should ever be lead poisoned. The Coalition was instrumental in the passage of landmark legislation passed by Cleveland City Council in 2019 creating a proactive inspection system to ensure the lead safety of rental properties built before 1978. This lead safe law does not stand alone though; it is strategically married with resources to help families and property owners comply with the law, stabilize our housing stock, and ultimately, protect Cleveland's next generation of children from lead poisoning.

### Critical Information

The Lead Safe Home Fund, created by the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, are those resources to help families and property owners. The Fund is a first-of-its-kind, public-private fund supporting two interrelated functions: 1) Lead Safe Resource Center to provide Lead Safe Certification navigation, workforce development, community education, a hotline, and 2) Lead Safe Home Loans and Grants to help property owners to make lead safe home repairs. Developed on rigorous research conducted by Case Western Reserve University, home repair experience, and lead poisoning prevention best practices, the Fund has an overall five-year, \$99.4 target budget. As of September 2021, the Coalition has raised just over \$45 million in commitments and pledges. Grants to property owners who have lower incomes or operate on smaller margins, are an outstanding area of greatest need. In addition to resources to assist property owners with compliance, ultimately the success of the lead safe certification depends on enforcement from the City of Cleveland.

### Priorities for the Next Mayor of Cleveland

- Allocate \$17.5 million of ARPA dollars toward the Lead Safe Home Fund for the express purpose of grants to property owners to make their units lead safe.
- Enforce the lead safe certification law to ensure full compliance.
- Maintain leadership in the city-created bodies (Lead Safe Advisory Board, Lead Safe Housing Action Board & Lead Screening and Testing Commission) and the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition.

### Further Reading

- [Characteristics of Rental Properties and Landlords in Cleveland](#)
- [Downstream Consequences of Childhood Lead Poisoning: A Longitudinal Study of Cleveland Children from Birth to Adulthood](#)

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Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation  
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)  
[mtsinaifoundation.org](https://mtsinaifoundation.org)

Summary

Traumatic experiences and causes of toxic stress in childhood, often referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), include various forms of abuse, neglect, and household challenges like substance use in the home. Childhood trauma also stems from poverty, homelessness, involvement in foster care, bullying, and exposure to community violence. Racism and other forms of discrimination underpin many ACEs and are sources of toxic stress in and of themselves (source: [Center for Youth Wellness](#)).

ACEs can cause serious mental and physical health issues for children that persist into adulthood, perpetuating economic hardships for families and communities, according to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO). However, ACEs and their lifelong impacts are not inevitable. Reducing traumatic experiences, creating safe, stable, and nurturing environments, and promoting resil-



Children's Defense Fund-Ohio  
Behavioral Health  
[cdfohio.org](http://cdfohio.org)

### Summary

According to many [reports](#), child behavioral health is reaching a crisis level – especially during the pandemic as isolation, inconsistent health care, and family stress have grown. In the years leading up to the pandemic, research shows that mental illness and substance use disorders impacted young Ohioans of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and income levels, and this situation has only grown more serious. For these reasons, the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio in partnership with the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition (MHAC) co-authored the report, [Mind the Gap: Creating a Robust Continuum of Behavioral Health Care for Young Ohioans](#). This report, released in April of this year, proposes that the state of Ohio adopt a standard continuum of behavioral health care for children that meets their developmental needs from prenatal through age 25. Further, the report examines challenges and opportunities in strengthening our system throughout the state and offers recommendations. Finally, county profiles on behavioral health are included to detail demographics, statistics on diagnosis, Medicaid coverage, and self-reported data from counties on services.

### Critical Information

Using data from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), and population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, it is estimated that more than 550,000 children and adolescents and 560,000 young adults aged 18 to 25 in Ohio have a mental illness or substance use disorder. These disorders can be especially devastating to young people, impacting current health and school success and contributing to serious lifelong consequences.

A child, adolescent, or young adult's access to quality services, ongoing treatment for chronic challenges, and coordination of care for complex circumstances, increase the likelihood of positive life outcomes and benefits everyone – the youth, their families, and their communities. According to the 2019 State of Mental Health in America report developed by Mental Health America, although Ohio ranked 13th in access to mental health care for youth, more than half of children who experienced major depression did not receive mental health services and only 33 percent received consistent treatment.

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented disruptions to the lives of individuals and families. Even before these impacts became apparent, researchers, clinicians, teachers, caregivers, and young Ohioans themselves had voiced concerns about the increasing stress, anxiety, and depression among youth. The pandemic has compounded the already rising negative trends, as isolation, loss of routine, and missed milestones exacerbate these feelings. Further, the role of systemic racism and its history in our society plays a significant role in the behavioral health of individuals and communities, adding stress and trauma to the experiences of young people of color.

Cuyahoga County is home to about 377,822 young Ohioans (ages 0-25), representing nearly 10 percent of the state's





# JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Summary

Preventing children and youth from entering the juvenile justice system and supporting their healthy development is essential for the well-being of our young people and our community. Too many pathways lead children to justice system involvement, including the removal of students from school for misconduct, an overreliance on law enforcement for intervening with youth, and a lack of adequate diversion from detention and trauma-informed interventions and supports. Black and brown children are overrepresented in all of these pathways and many of our justice-involved youth have multiple system needs, including mental and behavioral health and child welfare. Once placed in the county juvenile detention center (CCJDC), young people are confined for months or longer, often isolated in their cells for extended times with extremely limited programming or therapeutic supports. Limiting the likelihood of success for our justice-involved youth not only deprives them of future opportunities, but harms the families and communities they leave behind and ultimately undermines the vitality and social fabric of our city.

## Critical Information

Despite the current concern about gun violence, juvenile arrest rates for all crimes have been [steadily declining since the mid-1990s](#). Last year there were [3,263 delinquency and unruly cases](#) in our county, down from 3,346 in 2019. This represents a significant decline of about one-third of cases since 2007 when there were more than 9,100 cases.

Based on a [growing body of research](#) about the teen brain, adolescent development, and what works programmatically with youth engaged in delinquent or other risk-taking behaviors, [juvenile justice reforms](#) over the last decade have sought to increase legal protections, [reduce justice-system pathways, and divert children from deeper system involvement](#). While our state and local juvenile justice systems have engaged in a number of efforts to divert justice-involved youth from residential placements (e.g., a [series of evaluations](#) conducted by the Begun Center for Violence Prevention at CWRU), significant [challenges remain](#) and the current conditions at the CCJDC [raise serious concerns](#).

Cleveland youth make up a significant portion of those involved with our juvenile justice system. While the juvenile court system is county-wide, the [2020 Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Annual Report](#) notes that Cleveland cases (1,617) make up just over half of all the 3,263 delinquency and unruly cases in the county. Of the 2,195 youth charged with delinquency, 972 are from Cleveland. While most youth under 18 charged with offenses remain in the juvenile system, Cuyahoga county had 113 bindovers last year and [leads the state with 50 percent](#) of all bindovers in Ohio (Franklin County's population is similar to Cuyahoga but our county [transfers four time more youth to adult court](#)).

In 2018, national experts from the Center for Children's Law & Policy [found a series of concerns](#) with the CCJDC, including "staffing problems", a "significant and dangerous dependence on the







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# POVERTY

## Enterprise Community Partners

Housing & Homelessness

[enterprisecommunity.org/about/where-we-work/ohio](https://enterprisecommunity.org/about/where-we-work/ohio)

### Summary

Enterprise Community Partners is a national nonprofit that exists to make a good home possible for the millions of families without one. Home is where life happens, where plans are made and futures begin. The foundation for dignity, health, education, wealth and community. Yet rents keep going up, paychecks don't keep pace, and good homes in strong neighborhoods are increasingly out of reach. The system doesn't work. It must be changed. Together with partners and funders, Enterprise's Ohio Market has created or preserved over 35,000 affordable homes throughout Ohio. We convene and lead coalitions to bring housing-based programs and creative policy solutions to support residents in achieving housing stability and economic mobility. Some of our key programs include:

- Lead Safe Cleveland: Leads public-private partnership supporting effective, enforceable and equitable solutions to prevent lead poisoning
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Children's Hunger Alliance

Hunger

[childrenshungeralliance.org](http://childrenshungeralliance.org)

### Summary

Federally subsidized Child Nutrition Programs – including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) – are proven to increase access to nutritious meals for at-risk children. Children need access to healthy food in the environments where they spend the most time, often in early childcare settings, school, afterschool care, and summer programs. Children's Hunger Alliance's (CHA) role in the community as an approved CACFP and SFSP sponsor is to help provide financial support to caregivers allowing them to provide nutritious foods to children in their care. Regular consumption of nutritious food over the course of time positively impacts children's long-term health and academic outcomes. In addition to the federal nutrition programs, we provide meals during weekends and extended school breaks, a program that does not qualify for federal reimbursement. Over the last year, CHA and its partners have provided more than one million meals to children in Cuyahoga County.

### Critical Information

Cuyahoga County is home to the highest number of food-insecure children in Ohio with a projected 23.4 percent experiencing food insecurity (Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap). According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates from 2014 – 2019, [47 percent of children in Cleveland live in households where the income is below the poverty level.](#) Based on estimates from Feeding America, COVID-19 may have increased these figures. Additionally, the [Center for Community Solutions data](#) show that 34.5 percent of households in Cleveland's wards utilize Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. However, [these benefits are often not enough to provide food for a household for an entire month.](#) These statistics demonstrate the need to maximize access to Child Nutrition Programs.

### Priorities for the Next Mayor of Cleveland

- Strengthen Child Nutrition Programs that provide summer and afterschool meals, to make the program more accessible for children and families.
- Support federal, state, and local efforts to expand food access for children.
- Support increasing the number of children who participate in school meals.
- Form and support collaborations with government, school, community, and faith-based organizations to increase children's access to nutritious meals in early childcare settings, school, afterschool, and summer programs.
- Provide funding to CACFP and SFSP sponsors to increase meal access for food insecure children.

### Further Reading

- [CHA's 2020 Annual Report](#)
- [CHA's Agency Brochure 2021](#)
- [Ohio Program Performance 2020](#)

### Contact

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# FOUNDATION PARTNERS

The Bruening Foundation  
[brueningfoundation.org](http://brueningfoundation.org)

### Summary

The Bruening Foundation invests in efforts to disrupt the cycle of poverty for young families in Cuyahoga County through its proactive and responsive grantmaking. The Foundation's proactive Strong Start Strategy seeks to ensure that every child in the county gets a strong start in life. Through the strategy, the foundation develops partnerships with organizations and programs that deliver interventions to the youngest children, ages 0-3, and their families; work to facilitate language and social-emotional development; and provide support for parents as their child's first teacher. The strategy also proactively seeks to address the social determinants of health that impact early childhood development, including the settings in which children live, learn and play. Finally, through the strategy, the foundation supports advocacy initiatives to promote policies that are conducive to the healthy development of young children.

### Critical Information

Development of the Strong Start Strategy was heavily influenced by brain research from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University that shows the neural connections for different brain activities develop sequentially, which means that babies need visual, sensory, and language inputs to develop the higher cognitive functions that contribute to lifelong success. It was also influenced by the work of Dr. James Heckman, Nobel-prize winning economist at the University of Chicago, that shows the economic return on investment of social and educational interventions are strongest in the earliest years and actually begin to decrease by age 4.

### Priorities for the Next Mayor of Cleveland

- Prioritize implementation of the Cleveland lead safe legislation, as even low levels of lead exposure have been shown to harm the cognitive development of young children
- Prioritize early learning and lead safety and testing within the ARPA investment strategy
- Work with Mayors across Ohio to support additional state investments in early childhood mental health care, lead safety, evidence-based home visiting and high-quality early education

### Further Reading

- [Three Core Concepts in Early Development](#)
- [8 Things to Remember about Child Development](#)
- [Early Childhood Lead Exposure in Cuyahoga County and the Impact on Kindergarten Readiness](#)

### Contact

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Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland  
Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood  
[clevelandpromiseneighborhood.org](http://clevelandpromiseneighborhood.org)

Summary

Since 2010, [Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland](http://Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland) has led the Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood as a founding partner alongside neighborhood residents and organizational partners whose shared goal is to help every child in the Central neighborhood achieve success in learning, work and life. Promise partners have remained dedicated to collaboration and new ideas that can shape the future of the Central neighborhood for all residents, especially children and

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United Way of Greater Cleveland  
[unitedwaycleveland.org](http://unitedwaycleveland.org)

### Summary

United Way of Greater Cleveland's work on behalf of those in need includes essential programs serving Cleveland residents including United Way 211, Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, Right to Counsel Cleveland, Family Space, and Child Advocacy Center. These programs are essential lifelines in communities, help stabilize communities, individuals, and families, saw an increase in demand and need for services during and throughout COVID, and are an integral part of local community recovery.

### Critical Information

- United Way 211: 211 provides comprehensive screening and navigation services to community members who need help accessing social services. In 2020, 211 served over 135,000 Clevelanders with assistance to housing and shelter, food, and utilities. Children's services include after school programs, school supplies, clothing, mentoring, and tutoring.
- Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition: United Way of Greater Cleveland is a founding member of the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition which wa2 >oEpan e38 >>BDC T\* [(th )32 >>BDC 0 -1Tnd home land e

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Groundwork Ohio  
[GroundworkOhio.org](http://GroundworkOhio.org)

### Summary

Groundwork Ohio is a public policy, research and advocacy organization with a mission to champion high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families and communities. Groundwork's vision is to make Ohio the best place to be a young child so that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Groundwork advances its mission by working closely with local partners and community-based organizations to advance state level policy that reflects the unique needs of children, families and the professionals that serve them in local communities. Groundwork enjoys significant funding from Cleveland-based foundations who recognize the importance of having a strong state partner and advocate that works to increase investments in young children and families across the state and support state early childhood system infrastructure on which local communities rely. Groundwork Ohio has strong and diverse relationships with Cleveland and Cuyahoga County community leaders, organizations, programs and professionals that serve pregnant women, infants, toddlers, young children and their families.

### Critical Information

- [Case for Support & Policy Agenda](#)
- [The State of Infants and Toddlers, Cuyahoga County](#)

### Priorities for the Next Mayor of Cleveland

- Continue to invest in and increase local investment in evidence-based interventions that support the healthy development of young children ages 0-5 and their families. (i.e. child care, preschool, home visiting, early childhood mental health, lead prevention).
- Work strategically with local community-based partners to innovate and solve the most pressing challenges facing young Cleveland children and families. Share your learnings to inform statewide policy.
- Honor families as experts of their own lives by developing and identifying regular opportunities to listen to families, particularly low-income families and families of color to inform your policy agenda.

### Further Reading

- [Building Brains. Building Communities. The case for investing in young children prenatal to](#)
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Ohio Mayors Alliance  
[ohiomayorsalliance.org](http://ohiomayorsalliance.org)

Summary

The Ohio Mayors Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's 30 largest cities. We believe that by coming together and speaking with one voice about the challenges and opportunities of Ohio's cities, we can more effectively advocate for our communities and our constituents. Our mission is to strengthen Ohio's cities and metropolitan regions through collaboration, communication, improved advocacy, and stronger partnerships with policymakers. We advance policy priorities that bring communities and leaders together, ensure a high quality of life for our citizens, and strengthen the economic vibrancy of our communities and our state.

OMA has a broad policy agenda, approved unanimously by its bipartisan membership each year. The 2021 policy agenda is as follows: supporting a safe, stable, and strong recovery from the coronavirus pandemic; addressing racial inequality, promoting justice, improving public safety; advocating for a balanced redistricting process that strengthens our democracy; promoting the economic impacts of cities and the value of continued investments; strengthening educational attainment and career pathways for the next generation; advancing clean energy solutions and supporting improved sustainability; promoting healthy communities and continuing to confront the addiction crisis, protecting and promoting the importance of home rule for local communities;

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Children's Coalition Members

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Say Yes Cleveland	Diane Downing	Executive Director	ddowning@sayyescleveland.org	(440) 773-7649
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## Contributing Partners

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Children's Hunger Alliance	Judy Mobley	President & CEO	jmobley@childrenshungeralliance.org	(614) 643-8025
Cleveland Transformation Alliance	Meghann Marnecheck	Executive Director	Meghann.Marnecheck@Clevelandta.org	(216) 210-4333
Early Childhood Invest in Children	John Ladd, MNO	Program Officer IV	John.Ladd@jfs.ohio.gov	(216) 443-6583
Groundwork Ohio	Shannon Jones	President & CEO	sjones@groundworkohio.org	(937) 525-0944
Juvenile Justice Coalition	Kenza Kamal	Policy Director	kenza@jjohio.org	(614) 450-0034
Ohio Mayors Alliance	Keary McCarthy	Executive Director	Keary@OhioMayorsAlliance.org	(614) 425-9163
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland	Richaun Bunton, LSW, MSW	Managing Director, Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood	rbunton@socfcleveland.org	(216) 376-0747
United Way of Greater Cleveland	August A. Napoli	President and CEO	anapoli@unitedwaycleveland.org	(216) 436-2101

## Supporting Partners

Organization	Contact Name	E-Mail	Phone Number

Contact Information





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