The Childhood League Center has three major objectives:

* 1. Continue to support and expand our evidence based practices across all of our programs for children birth through preschool.
  2. Increase awareness & access of PLAY Project in Ohio’s underserved counties.
  3. Continue to **transform challenging starts into unstoppable futures**

The State Budget funding is critical to The Childhood League Center because research supports that high quality intensive early intervention services for young children have a long-term impact for the child and our community. We know the earlier you intervene with a child, the more likely they are to be successful.

The Childhood League Center’s target population are children with developmental disabilities in Franklin County and early childhood education providers in Ohio’s underserved counties.

* We serve children birth through pre-school with developmental disabilities as well as children who are at risk and who reside in Franklin County:
  + We provide **early intervention** for children birth to age 3. Our highly trained experts work with children diagnosed with developmental disabilities in the child’s home to support parents/caregivers as they gain skills to help their children and the entire family reach their goals. We focus on expanding the parents/caregivers competence and confidence to care for and support their child’s growth
  + We operate a fully **inclusive preschool** where typically developing children and children with developmental disabilities, ages 2 to 6, are in high quality evidence based classrooms learning alongside one another. This approach is research based, is nationally recognized and proves that children learn best in an inclusive environment academically preparing them for success as they move into the K through 12 world
  + **At The Childhood League Center we provide PLAY Project Consultation and Coaching. PLAY stands for (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters). It** is an evidence-based autism intervention for very young children, as young as 14 months old, using a home-based coaching, consultation and parent implementation model. This means, for children with autism or indications of autism who are under the age of three, our PLAY Home Consultant goes into the home, works with the child and teaches the parents these critical interventions and strategies, so that the parent can become THE expert for their child. This also means the parents can use these highly effective interventions all the time, whether the trained PLAY consultant is there or not. In addition, our classroom teachers are certified Teaching PLAY Consultants, meaning our children benefit from these strategies on a continuum starting in the early intervention home-based program all the way through pre-school.
* The Childhood League Center is the only Licensed PLAY Project center in the country. We not only provide direct services to children and families in all of our programs, but we provide training and awareness throughout the state of Ohio. Our PLAY Project training and awareness-building program is targeted to early childhood education providers in underserved counties in Ohio. These counties, each have unique issues, which affects their access to information and resources, including this high quality, evidenced based intervention.
  + In the past two years The Childhood League Center has worked with the counties of the SOCOG, these are chronically underserved counties. Our goal was to expand access to and awareness of the PLAY Project for children with or showing symptoms of autism by training early intervention and preschool providers.
  + Through multiple professional development opportunities, the SOCOG providers brought back strategies to use with children and families, resources to actually enhance their practice, and opportunities to collaborate with other professionals in the early childhood arena.
  + We would like to continue to support the SOCOG counties **as well as** work with more of Ohio’s underserved counties (approximately 29 more counties), where there is limited access to information, training and/or resources.

Specifically, we plan to use the State funds for:

* personnel
* purchased services
* educational and therapeutic supplies and equipment
* music and arts programs
* outreach in the community for parent education and
* our PLAY Project trainings and those associated costs.

It is worth noting that all services for children with developmental disabilities are provided with no cost to the families. And we do not use or have available to us a fee for service model. Two thirds of our $3.4M budget is contributed income, meaning that the support we receive in the state budget has and will continue to be critical to our continued success as we impact more children, families, and reach out to more of Ohio’s early childhood education providers in underserved counties.

I respectfully request your support for The Childhood League Center to be included in the next State of Ohio Operating Budget. Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.