

Ohio Department of Children & Youth

26/27 Executive Budget Testimony

2/25/2025



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

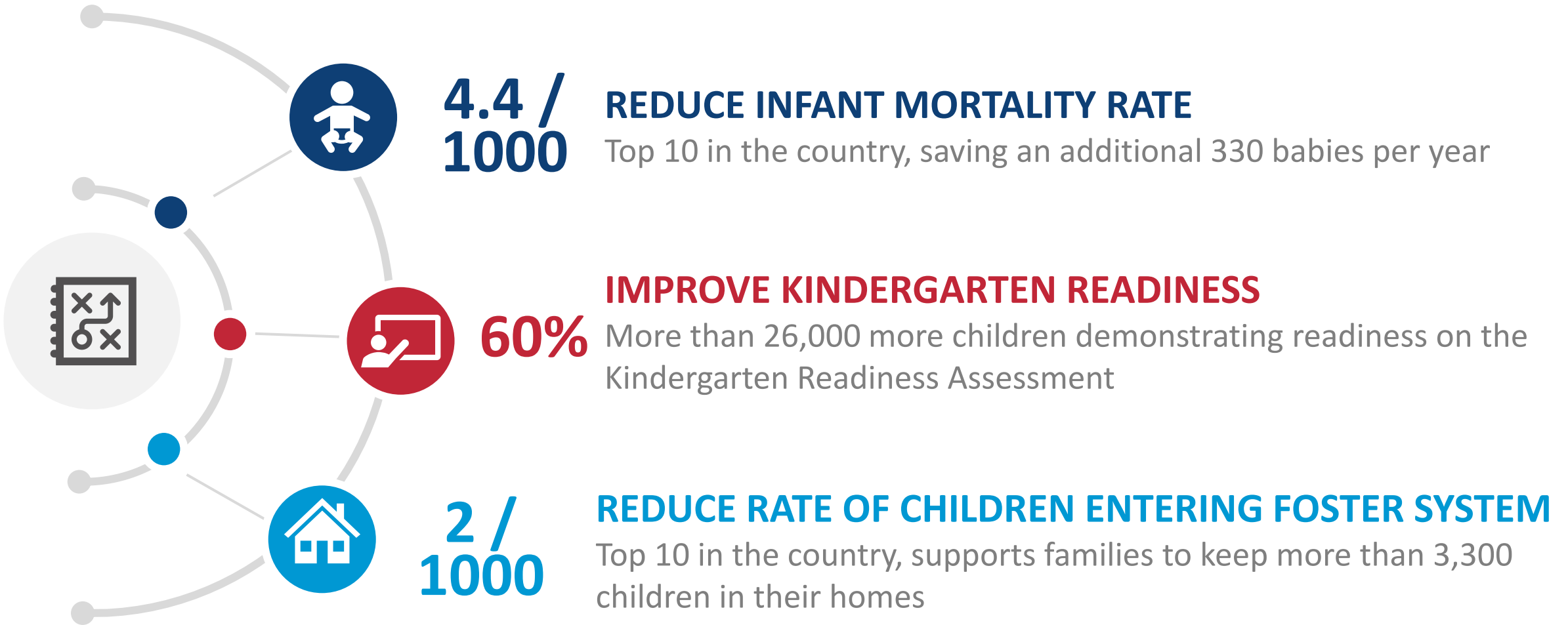




“Remember that behind every policy is a person.”

DO WHAT’S RIGHT FOR KIDS.

BIG GOALS OVERVIEW



Goal 1 - Reducing Infant Mortality: Giving Every Baby a Fighting Chance

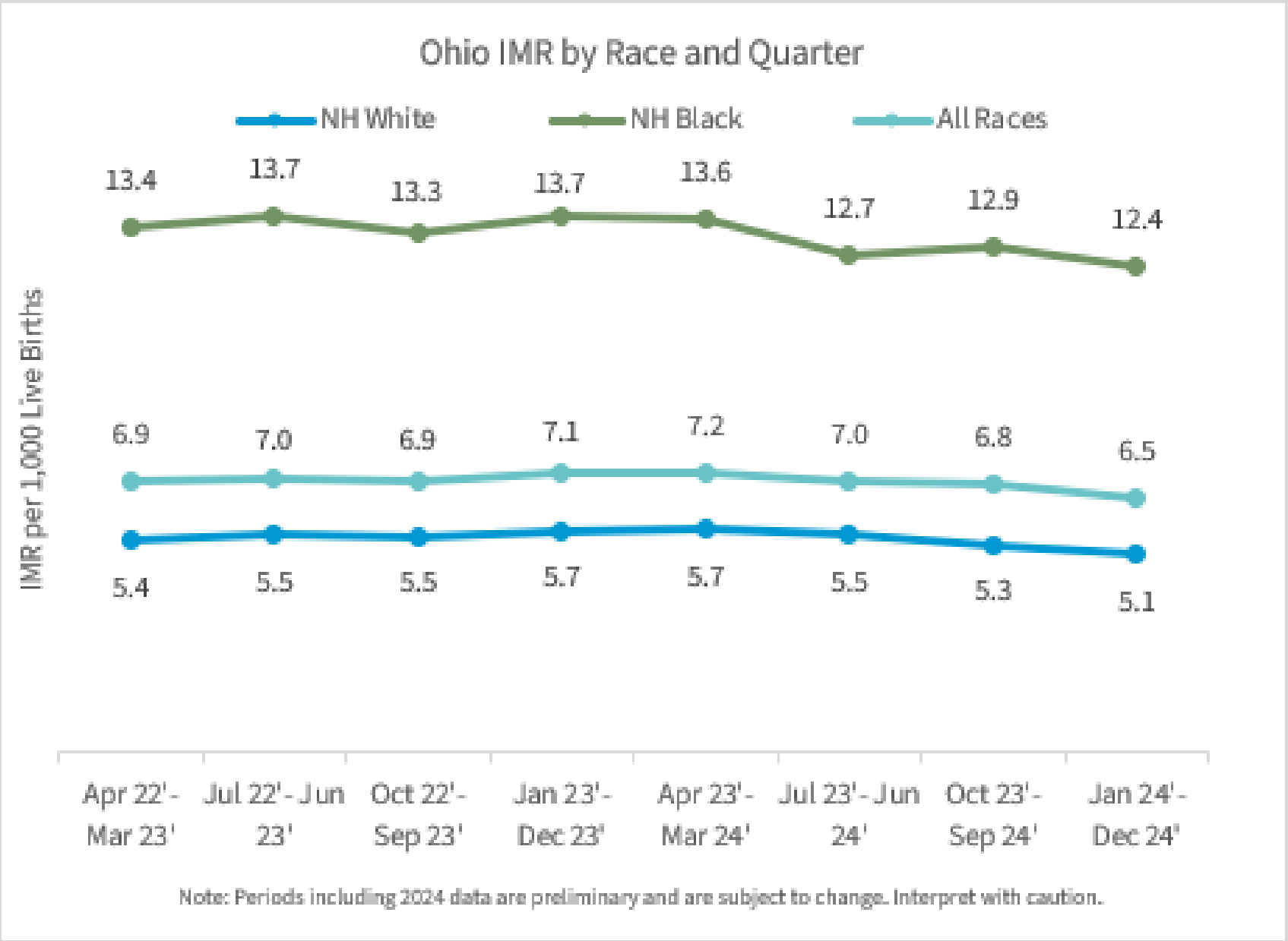


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INFANT VITALITY DATA

Note: 2024 data are preliminary and should be interpreted with caution



MATERNAL & INFANT VITALITY



Request

- **Year 1:** \$8M
- **Year 2:** \$8M



Request

- **Year 1:** \$7.6M
- **Year 2:** \$29.5M



Initiative Details

- Spread and scale Cradle Cincinnati Model.
- Increase community and faith-based support to create community synergy and leverage community needs assessments to identify continued or future investments.
- Increase support of parenting and pregnancy programming.
- Increase home visiting to more than 25,000 additional children over the biennium through a phased approach to grow the Family Connects model as outlined in the 2024 State of the State Address.



Goal 2 – Improving Kindergarten Readiness: Giving Every Child a Strong Start



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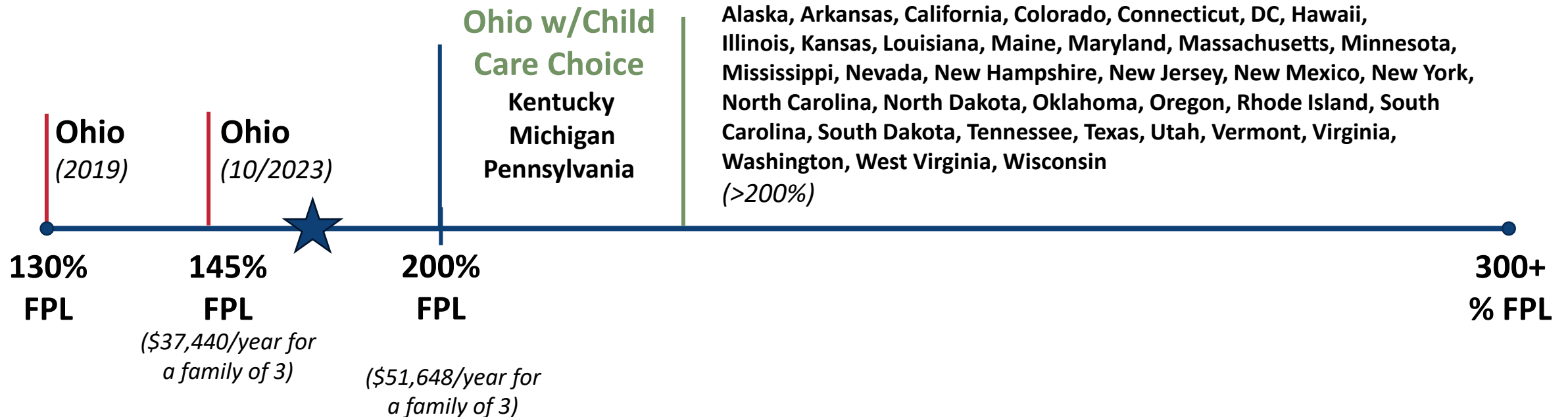


FAMILY ELIGIBILITY

39 states have eligibility at **200% FPL or above**
(including Ohio with Governor DeWine's Child Care Choice Voucher Program)

★ **Ohio - Publicly Funded Child Care: 160%**

- **Ohio - Child Care Choice: 200%**



CHILD CARE



Request – *Federal Appropriation*

- **Year 1:** \$70M
- **Year 2:** \$115M

Total Investment

Line	Description	SFY 26	SFY 27
830604	CCDF	\$597,383,509	\$643,000,000
830605	TANF	\$400,000,000	\$400,000,000
830400	Child Care MOE	\$93,636,000	\$93,636,000
830500	Early Care & Education	\$141,285,000	\$141,285,000



Initiative Details

Maintain eligibility for families working and going to school at 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). By expanding eligibility for publicly funded child care from 145% to 160% of the FPL and maintaining the Child Care Choice Voucher Program for families 161% - 200%.

- **Family of 3:** \$51,648 income
- **Family of 4:** \$62,400 income

INCREASE ELIGIBILITY

- Annual child care costs a family with one infant approximately \$11,000 while a family with an infant and one toddler can expect to pay nearly **\$22,000 a year**.
- This is estimated to be between 10% of a dual income family up to more than **39% of a single parent's annual income**.
- In 2024-2025, Ohio in-state tuition at a public college or university per student was around \$13,000.

Child Care vs. Household Expenses

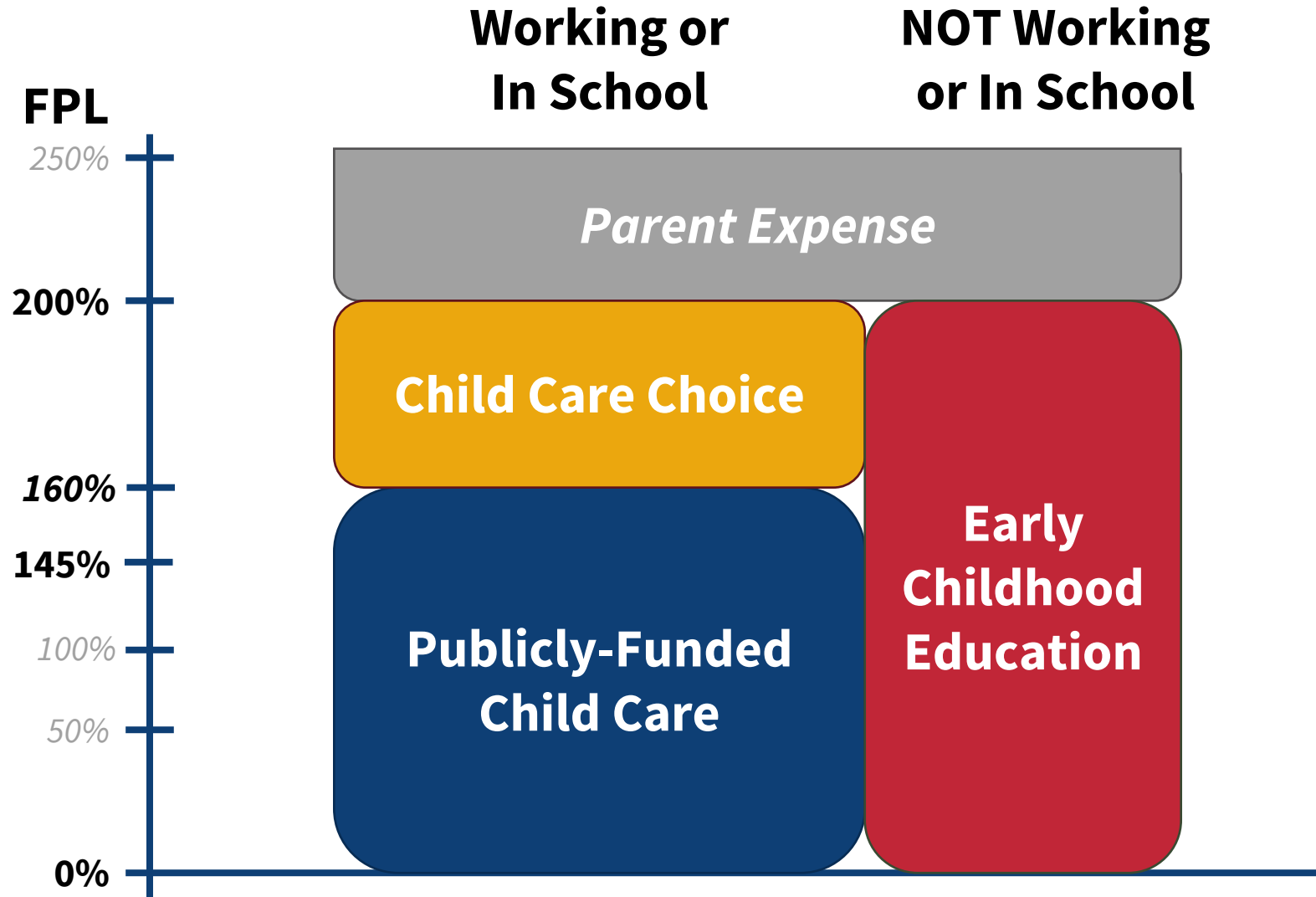
When compared to other household expenses, child care often has the highest price.



Annual child care price for 2 children (an infant and 4 year old) in a center

Ohio household expenses as of 2024 *Child Care Aware Of America*

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION - TODAY



CHILD CARE GOALS FOR FY2026/2027 BUDGET

- 1. Children:** Maintain support for children in families up to 200% of the FPL to make child care accessible and affordable.
- 2. Families:** Streamline the application process to one front door through Ohio Benefits easing access.
- 3. Providers:** Streamline payments and increase to the 2024 market rate to stabilize the industry.
- 4. State:** Meet federal compliance for the Child Care Development Block Grant and support families.



REQUIRED BY 08/1/2026

- ✓ 7% cap on parent co-pays
- ✓ Payment by enrollment to providers
- ✓ Pay at the 50th percentile of the 2024 market rate

EARLY IDENTIFICATION & LITERACY



Early Intervention

- **Year 1:** \$7M
- **Year 2:** \$9M

Total Investment

- **SFY 2026:** \$30.6M
- **SFY 2027:** \$32.7M



Imagination Library

- **Year 1:** \$2M
- **Year 2:** \$2M

Total Investment

- **SFY 2026:** \$10M
- **SFY 2027:** \$10M



Initiative Details

Early Intervention:

- As a result of increased referrals, and the additional 1,100 children served last year funding is needed to ensure timely evaluations, assessments, and service coordination.
- Studies show that one out of every three children who receive Early Intervention no longer need specialized services when they enter kindergarten.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio:

- 62% of Ohio's children birth through age five are receiving a book each month.
- More than 5,200 children in foster care have been enrolled.
- A 2023 study reported:
 - Nearly four in five children are reading with their parents/guardians more after receiving the books.
 - About 90% of respondents believe children are better prepared for kindergarten.

Goal 3 – Keeping Families Together: Reducing Foster Care Entry



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CHILD WELLNESS CAMPUSES & STATE CHILD PROTECTION FUNDING



Wellness Campuses

One-Time Funding

- **Year 1:** \$20M
- **Year 2:** \$10M



Initiative Details

Regional Wellness Campuses will create **new placement options** so that no children have to stay overnight in lobbies or hotels, resulting in fewer displacements and quicker reunification with families.



Child Protection Funding

- **Year 1:** \$25M
- **Year 2:** \$30M

Total Investment

- **SFY 26:** \$180M
- **SFY 27:** \$185M

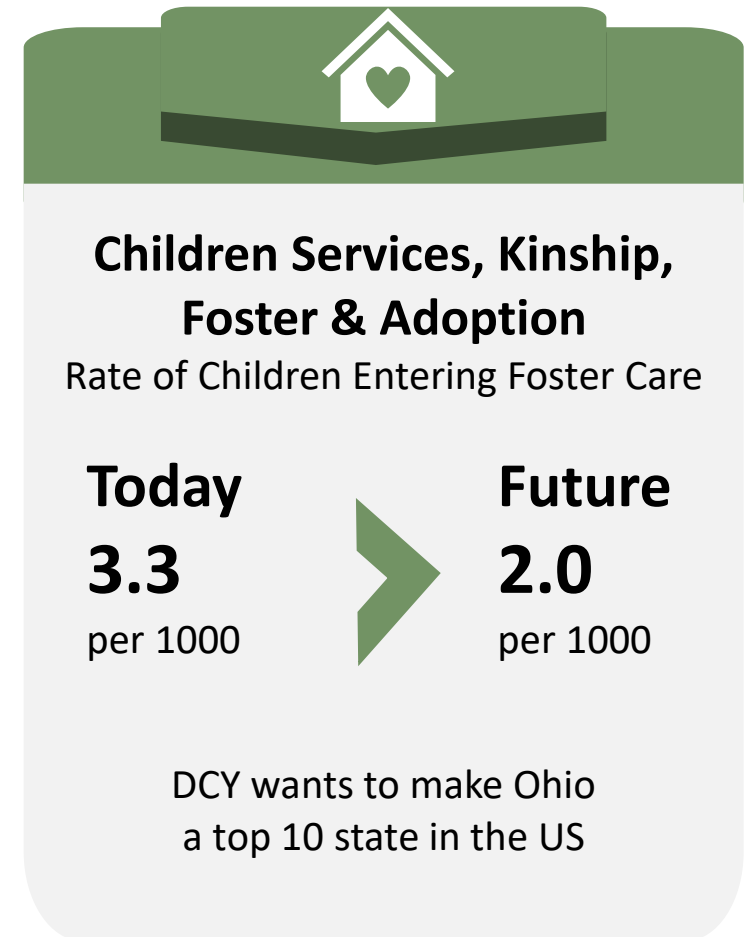
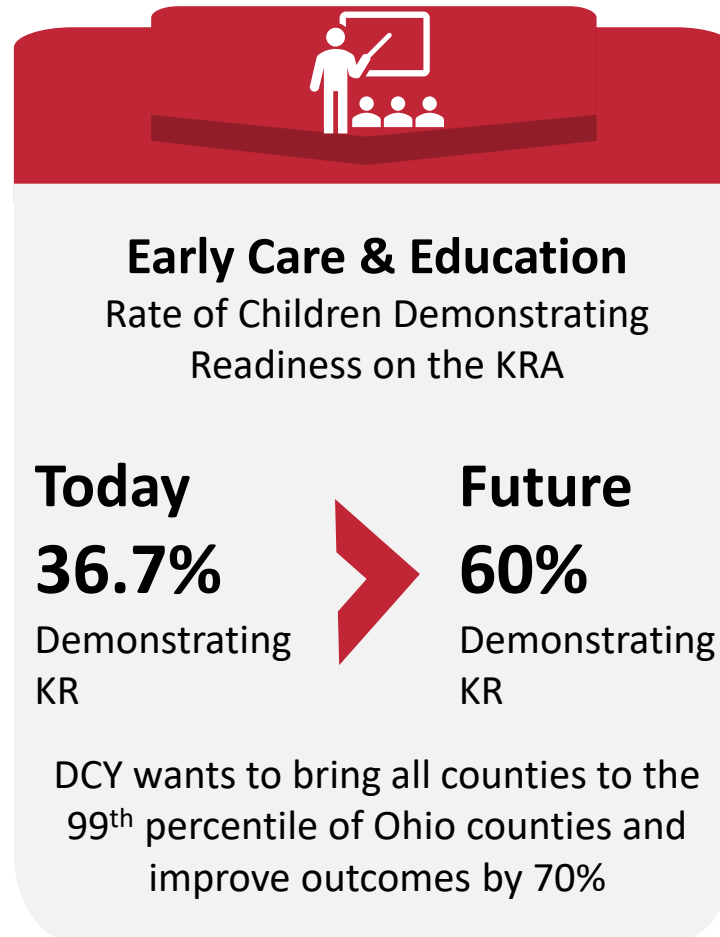
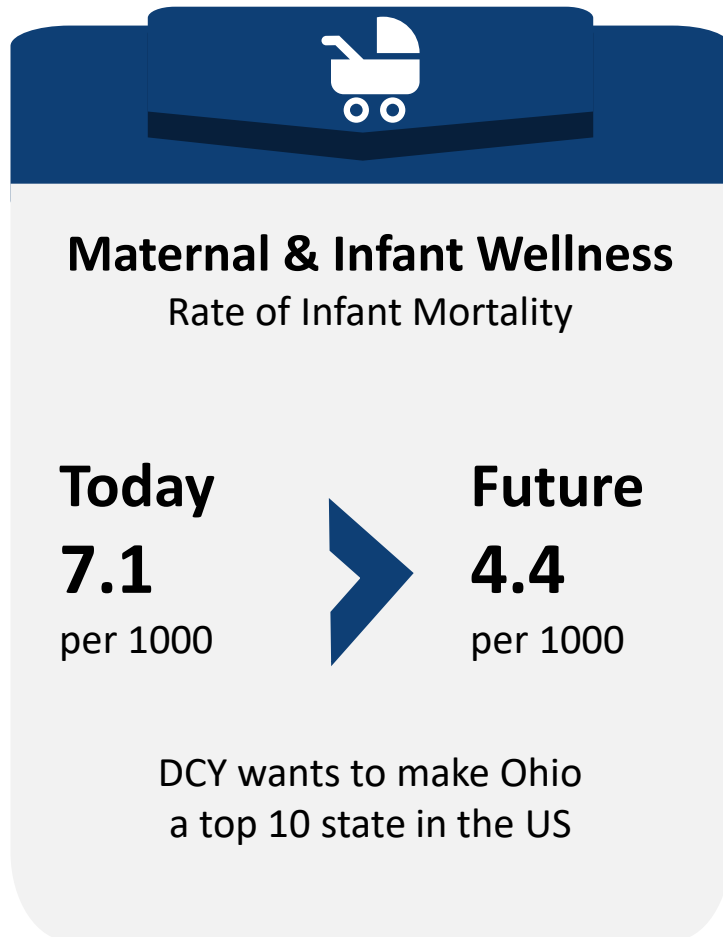


Initiative Details

Expanded investment in this line will support local governments with **timely investigations** and the increased **cost of care**.

THE FUTURE OF OHIO

Ohio aims to be the **best place in the country to start and raise a family** and DCY has outlined the **following goals to become a leading state** (e.g., top 10 in the country across three program areas):





**Department of
Children & Youth**

DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR KIDS.

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES



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