



March 3, 2025

Dear Rep. Salvo,

**2025-2027 Ohio Budget Request for Ohio Adolescent Health Centers (OAHC)**

The Ohio Adolescent Health Centers, a collaboration of nine organizations, requests the restoration of the OAHC line in the state budget for \$15,600,000.00 (\$7,800,000.00) annually) to be managed by OAHC to provide five to ten classroom sessions (as requested by the school) for **125,000** middle and high school students in Ohio to meet the requirements of Ohio's *Parents Right to Know Act*, Ohio Revised Code 3313.60, and help fulfill Ohio's *SAVE Act* for dating and sexual violence prevention, bullying, and alcohol and other drug use prevention mandates.

OAHC received \$1,000,000.00 in the 2019-2021 Ohio budget and \$2,000,000.00 in the 2021-2023 Ohio budget. With those funds, OAHC served 54,078 students. OAHC receives Title V funding through the Ohio Department of Health with funding amounts varying each year. Since 2016, OAHC's nine collaborators served 563,973 students in 68 of Ohio's 88 counties. OAHC has the capacity to serve as many students as funds allow. We currently have waiting lists of schools who hope to schedule programs as soon as possible.

More details are provided in the attached documents. We appreciate your support of OAHC.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Wood*

Catherine Wood

President of OAHC

[OAHCYouth.org](http://OAHCYouth.org)  
Ohio Adolescent Health Centers  
8862 Commerce Loop Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43240



The Ohio Adolescent Health Centers (OAHC) is a primary prevention collaborative that equips youth to 1) avoid risk behaviors, 2) develop healthy relationships, and 3) establish positive mental health habits.

The OAHC collaborative endeavors to reduce 1) teen pregnancy and STI rates, 2) alcohol, marijuana, and illicit drug use, 3) bullying, 4) dating violence, and 5) the misuse of social media. OAHC's programs increase family engagement, youth relationships skills such as decision making, communication, assertiveness, and self-regulation to foster health, resiliency, and wellness.

The OAHC programs support positive family formation and poverty prevention by encouraging youth to: graduate from high school, get a full-time job, get married, and have children within marriage.

The OAHC programs address youth risk factors such as: 1) early dating, 2) nonmarital sexual activity, 3) delinquent behavior, 4) low self-esteem, 5) high anxiety, and 6) substance abuse including alcohol and marijuana.

The OAHC programs encourage youth protective factors such as: 1) high self-esteem, 2) emotional self-regulation, 3) clear behavioral expectations, and 4) positive peer environment.

The OAHC programs meet the requirements of Ohio's *Parents Right to Know Act Ohio Revised Code 3313.60*, help fulfill Ohio's *SAVE Act* for dating and sexual violence prevention, bullying, and alcohol and other drug use prevention mandates.

Since 2016, the OAHC collaborative has served 563,973 youth—approximately 65,000 annually in 68 of Ohio's 88 counties. With additional funds, the collaborative has the capacity and the expertise to serve 75,000-100,000 youth annually. A recent return on investment report demonstrated that for every \$1.00 spent on OAHC programs there is a \$18.63 return saving the state of Ohio \$185,087,706.00.<sup>1</sup>

The OAHC collaborators serve youth of all ethnicities and socio-economic status in grades five through twelve and their families. The programs reach youth in rural, suburban, urban, and Appalachian public and private schools and community organizations. The collaborators are 1) Alliance for Healthy Youth, Akron, 2) Common Sense Culture, Columbus, 3) Elizabeth New Life Center, Dayton, 4) Family and Youth Initiatives, New Carlisle, 5) Healthy Visions, Cincinnati, 6) Maximum Freedom, Morrow, 7) OK, Inc., Youngstown and Twinsburg, 8) Relationships Under Construction, Columbus, and 9) Stand Up for Youth, Canton, Ohio.

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<sup>1</sup> Social Capitol Valuations