

# 2025-2026

## CCAO BUDGET PRIORITIES

### **Bolster Ohio's Child Welfare System**

- Increase the State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) by \$30 million per year, and require it be “not less than” \$185 million per year.
- Establish regional children’s crisis stabilization centers to provide short-term treatment and care for multi-system youth.
- Establish a process for the Department of Children and Youth to increase cost transparency and predictability in county agency budgeting for placement costs.

### **Pursue Indigent Defense Reforms and Funding**

- Include authority and funding for the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) to administer, on a pilot basis, a regional indigent defense delivery model, wherein OPD will provide services and administer the appointed counsel system for three counties.
- Provide additional funding to ensure counties not involved in the regional model are fully reimbursed for the costs of administering the indigent defense system.
- Include authority and funding for the Auditor of State to conduct a performance audit of Ohio’s indigent defense system. The results of this audit can identify efficiencies and future reforms.



**COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF OHIO**

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## CCAO BUDGET PRIORITIES

### Reinforce County Jails with Targeted Assistance

- Create a dedicated, ongoing revenue source for jail construction and renovation to assist counties with high inflationary construction costs.
- Request the Department of Medicaid seek an 1115 Reentry Demonstration Waiver from the federal government to assist counties with medical costs in jails and provide better health care to those incarcerated.

### Strengthen Support for Next Generation 9-1-1

- Revenue from previous operating budget is underperforming estimates, and additional funding is needed to support the implementation of this life saving technology at the county level.

### Improve Access to Child Care

- Codify the eligibility for publicly funded child care at 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Continue to build capacity for and improve access to affordable child care to ensure additional Ohio workers can enter the workforce.

## CCAO POLICY TEAM



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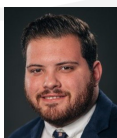
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