

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

Department of Children and Youth

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Attachment:

Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Greenbook

Department of Children and Youth

Quick look...

- The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) was created in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly as a new cabinet-level department.
- DCY administers programs that provide a variety of services to Ohio's 2.5 million children, including child welfare, child care, foster care, adoption, and early childhood education.
- DCY is responsible for administering a variety of federal grants, including the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) grants, some Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funds, and Title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance grants.
- Total budget: \$2.65 billion in FY 2026 and \$2.59 billion in FY 2027.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue	\$0	\$730,106,449	\$940,943,531	\$946,543,566
Dedicated Purpose	\$0	\$63,224,609	\$46,428,086	\$36,486,762
Federal	\$0	\$1,122,440,964	\$1,663,655,784	\$1,609,281,500
Total	\$0	\$1,915,772,021	\$2,651,027,401	\$2,592,311,828
% change	N/A	N/A	38.3%	-2.2%
GRF % change	N/A	N/A	28.9%	0.6%

Overview

Agency overview

The Ohio Department of Children and Youth's (DCY) mission is to provide efficient and effective services to children and their families that will promote positive, lifelong outcomes for all youth. DCY serves as the primary children's service agency that facilitates and coordinates the delivery of services related to adoption, child care, foster care, child welfare, early childhood education, early intervention, foster care, home visiting, infant vitality, early childhood mental consultation, and preschool special education.

Appropriation summary

As shown in the "Quick look" section, the budget provides a total appropriation of \$2.65 billion in FY 2026 and \$2.59 billion in FY 2027. GRF appropriations are \$940.9 million in FY 2026 and \$946.5 million in FY 2027.

Highlights of the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium budget

Publicly funded child care

H.B. 96 includes several provisions impacting publicly funded child care (PFCC), which are discussed below.

Child Care Choice Voucher

H.B. 96 establishes the Child Care Choice Voucher Program to assist families with child care costs in the form of vouchers. To be eligible to participate, a family must meet all of the following conditions: (1) the caretaker parent is employed or participating in a program of education or training for an amount of time reasonably related to the time that the parent's children are receiving child care, (2) the family does not meet the income conditions for initial eligibility under PFCC, but the maximum amount of the family's income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL), and (3) the family meets any other condition established by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY). The bill specifies that the program must utilize PFCC rates, in providing vouchers under the program, no later than November 1, 2026. H.B. 96 requires a portion of federal line item 830604, Child Care, and \$50.0 million in each fiscal year in federal line item 830605, TANF Block Grant, to be used for the program. In total, about \$100.0 million in each fiscal year is allocated for the program.

PFCC rates and payments

H.B. 96 does the following regarding PFCC rates and payments: (1) requires payments to be made prospectively to PFCC providers, (2) changes the contractual payment rate for PFCC to the rate established in rules, instead of the lower of the provider's customarily charged rate and the rate established in rules, and (3) requires DCY, beginning not later than July 5, 2026, to calculate PFCC payments based on a child's enrollment rather than on the child's attendance.

H.B. 96 requires DCY to establish, for the period beginning not later than December 31, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027, the following PFCC payment categories and time increments for the number of hours per week that a child is authorized to receive PFCC: (1) the hourly category, for hours of care totaling fewer than ten hours per week, (2) the part-time category, for hours of care totaling ten hours to fewer than 33 hours per week, and (3) the full-time category, for hours of care totaling 33 or more hours per week. DCY is prohibited from establishing any other PFCC payment categories. Additionally, DCY is prohibited under H.B. 96, for the same time period, from aligning type A family child care home payment rates with those for child care centers, and instead requires type A family child care home payment rates to align with those for type B family child care homes. The bill requires DCY, when aligning family child care home payment rates for that period, to pay at the rates established in accordance with continuing law requirements. The bill also increases to seven (from six) the number of children that may receive care in a type B family child care home and increases to eight to 14 (from seven to 12) the number of children that may receive care in a type A family child care home.

The following table shows PFCC appropriations in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Child Care Appropriations FY 2026-FY 2027		
Line Item	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
830400, Child Care State/MOE	\$93,636,000	\$93,636,000
830500, Early Care and Education	\$141,285,000	\$141,285,000
830604, Child Care	\$646,049,427	\$591,221,224
830605, TANF Block Grant	\$300,000,000	\$300,000,000
Total	\$1,180,970,427	\$1,126,142,224

Child Care Cred Program

H.B. 96 creates the Child Care Cred Program, which will allow costs of child care to be shared by participating employees, employers, and DCY. A participating employer is authorized to select one or more of its employees to participate in the program. A participating employee's family income cannot exceed 400% of the federal poverty level. Additionally, the child care provider must be licensed or certified as specified by the bill. The program is appropriated \$10.0 million in FY 2026.

Child Care Recruitment and Mentorship Grant Program

H.B. 96 appropriates \$1.0 million in FY 2026 and approximately \$1.9 million in FY 2027 in GRF funding for the Child Care Recruitment and Mentorship Grant Program to help increase the number of licensed child care providers in the state and to assist recruited entities and individuals.

Responsible Fatherhood Initiative

H.B. 96 requires DCY, through the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, to contract with a nonprofit organization for the development and implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative and to award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide support to fathers and materials and community engagement on fatherhood. The Initiative will include a statewide media campaign that increases the awareness of the importance of, and resources and information for, fathers being involved in their children's lives. The bill appropriates \$5.0 million in FY 2026 and \$15.0 million in FY 2027 in GRF funding for the Initiative.

Child wellness campuses

H.B. 96 provides \$10.0 million in GRF funding in each fiscal year for the establishment of regional child wellness campuses across the state to serve children and youth in the custody of, or at risk of being in the custody of, a public children services agency and who are not placed in a licensed residential setting and/or otherwise spending one or more nights in an unlicensed setting.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the funding for each appropriation line item (ALI) in the Department of Children and Youth's (DCY) budget. For organizational purposes, these ALIs are grouped into five major categories based on their funding purposes. The analysis for an ALI with a lower category or subcategory designation will appear before that for an ALI with a higher category or subcategory designation. That is, the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C2:1 and the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8.

To aid the reader in locating each ALI in the analysis, the following table shows the category in which each ALI has been placed, listing the ALIs in order within their respective fund groups and funds. This is the same order the ALIs appear in the DCY section of the budget bill.

In the analysis, each appropriation item's expenditures for FY 2025 and appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are listed in a table. Following the table, a narrative describes how the appropriation is used and any changes affecting the appropriation that are included in the enacted budget. If the appropriation is earmarked, the earmarks are listed and described.

Categorization of DCY's Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget				
Fund	ALI	ALI Name		Category
General Revenue Fund Group				
GRF	650400	Medicaid Program Support – State	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830321	Children and Youth Program Management	5	Administration
GRF	830400	Child Care State/Maintenance of Effort	2	Child Care and Related Activities
GRF	830402	Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830403	Help Me Grow	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830404	Infant Vitality	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830405	Part C Early Intervention	4	Early Education and Intervention
GRF	830406	Strong Families Strong Communities	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830407	Early Childhood Education	4	Early Education and Intervention
GRF	830409	Early Care and Education Learning Standards	2	Child Care and Related Activities
GRF	830410	Family and Children First	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830411	Imagination Library	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830414	Child Care Cred Program	2	Child Care and Related Activities
GRF	830415	Parenting and Pregnancy Program	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830416	Adoption Grant Program	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830418	Child Care Provider Recruitment	2	Child Care and Related Activities
GRF	830419	Children's Crisis Care	1	Child Welfare

Categorization of DCY's Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget				
Fund	ALI	ALI Name		Category
GRF	830420	Community Projects and Assistance	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830421	Responsible Fatherhood Initiative Grant Program	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830500	Early Care and Education	2	Child Care and Related Activities
GRF	830501	Kinship Permanency Incentive Program	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830502	Court Appointed Special Advocates	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830503	Adoption Services	1	Child Welfare
GRF	830505	Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)	3	Child Health and Wellness
GRF	830506	Family and Children Services	1	Child Welfare
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group				
1980	830600	Children's Trust Fund	1	Child Welfare
2320	830613	Family and Children First	1	Child Welfare
4E70	830615	Family and Children Services Collections	1	Child Welfare
4F10	830607	Family and Children Activities	1	Child Welfare
5BN1	830618	Child Welfare Training Support	1	Child Welfare
5BO1	830620	Children and Youth Community Initiatives	1	Child Welfare
5BP1	830621	Agency Oversight and Support	5	Administration
5CN0	830617	Choose Life	1	Child Welfare
5U60	830619	Family and Children Support	1	Child Welfare
Federal Fund Group				
3201	830608	Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	3	Child Health and Wellness
3270	830601	Child Welfare	1	Child Welfare
3980	830612	Adoption Program	1	Child Welfare
3A91	830622	Mental Health Block Grant	3	Child Health and Wellness
3C50	830610	Preschool Special Education	4	Early Education and Intervention
3D30	830602	Children's Trust Fund	1	Child Welfare
3F02	650600	Medicaid Program Support – Federal	3	Child Health and Wellness
3H70	830604	Child Care	2	Child Care and Related Activities
3IT0	830609	Community Social Service Programs	4	Early Education and Intervention
3IU0	830623	Federal Children and Youth Grants	1	Child Welfare
3N00	830603	Foster Care Program	1	Child Welfare
3V62	830605	TANF Block Grant	2	Child Care and Related Activities

Category 1: Child Welfare

DCY is responsible for administration and oversight of programs preventing child abuse and neglect, providing services to abused/neglected children and their families (birth, foster, and adoptive), licensing foster homes and residential facilities, and investigating allegations of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Child welfare programs are administered by county public children services agencies (PCSAs). DCY provides support to PCSAs by providing training programs for county workers and foster parents, information systems, and fiscal mechanisms for claiming federal reimbursement for allowable expenses.

C1:1: Child Protective Services

Children's Crisis Care (ALI 830419)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830419, Children's Crisis Care	\$0	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
% change	N/A	N/A	0.0%

This line item is allocated to children's crisis care facilities, which provide residential and other care to either preteens voluntarily placed in the facility by a caretaker who is facing a crisis or by a PCSA or private child placing agency. Facility operators have the option to decline this funding. The funds will be allocated based on the total length of stay or days of care for each child residing in the facility. This is calculated by determining the total days each child resides at the crisis care facility, including date of admission, but not the day of discharge.

Family and Children Services (ALI 830506)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF 830506, Family and Children Services	\$221,424,030	\$291,759,990	\$296,409,990
% change	N/A	31.8%	1.6%

This GRF line item provides funds for a number of programs or activities including: the State Child Protection Allocation, which is distributed to each PCSA to partially reimburse costs incurred by the PCSA in performing its duties; the state match for several child welfare activities, including foster parent stipends and reimbursements for completing foster training; multisystem youth supports; and several kinship programs, including the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP) and KGAP 21. H.B. 96 also makes several earmarks from this appropriation item. These are shown below, as well as the earmarks in FY 2025 for context.

Earmarks from ALI 830506, Family and Children Services in H.B. 96			
Earmarks	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Multi-System Youth	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
Best Practices	\$10,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000
Cleveland State University	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
PCSAs (State Child Protection Allocation)	\$145,040,010	\$180,000,000	\$185,000,000
Children Services Activities	--	\$35,309,990	\$35,309,990
Regional Child Wellness Campuses	--	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Providence House (study)	--	\$350,000	\$0
Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers	--	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Kinship Care Navigator Program	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
ALI 830506 Earmark Totals	\$188,690,010	\$269,759,990	\$274,409,990

H.B. 96 earmarks a total of \$10.0 million in each fiscal year from Federal Fund 3980 appropriation item 830612, Adoption Program, Federal Fund 3270 appropriation item 830601, Child Welfare, and GRF appropriation item 830506, Family and Children Services, to provide funds to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to implement statewide the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program of professional recruiters who use a child-focused model to find permanent homes for children in Ohio foster care. This is not included in the table above as it is unclear how much will be used from each of these three line items.

Additionally, H.B. 96 requires up to \$17.0 million in each fiscal year to be used for federal match requirements for Title IV-B and Title IV-E funding.

In collaboration with the county family and children first council, a county department of job and family services (CDJFS) or PCSA that receives an allocation from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) from GRF appropriation items 830506, Family and Children Services, or 830502, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is permitted to transfer a portion of either or both allocations to a flexible funding pool.

Child Welfare (ALI 830601)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3270 ALI 830601, Child Welfare	\$9,938,631	\$31,024,665	\$31,147,396
% change	N/A	212.2%	0.4%

This federally funded line item provides funding for Federal Child Welfare Services Title IV-B, Parts 1 and 2. The Title IV-B, Part 1 grant allows states to claim child welfare administrative costs and child welfare program costs. The administrative costs claimed to the grant are capped at 10% of Title IV-B, Part 1 expenses. The Title IV-B, Part 2 grant permits states to claim

expenditures for family preservation, support services, caseworker visitation, and adoption promotion services. Funds from the Title IV-B grant are predominantly allocated to PCSAs.

H.B. 96 earmarks a total of \$10.0 million in each fiscal year from Federal Fund 3980 appropriation item 830612, Adoption Program; Federal Fund 3270 appropriation item 830601, Child Welfare; and GRF appropriation item 830506, Family and Children Services, to provide funds to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to implement statewide the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program of professional recruiters who use a child-focused model to find permanent homes for children in Ohio foster care.

Overview of Title IV-B Child Welfare

Title IV-B Part 1's goal is to keep families together. This includes preventive intervention so children will not have to be removed from their homes. However, if this is not possible, children are placed in foster care and reunification services are available. Services are available to children and their families without regard to income. Title IV-B funds can be used to:

- Protect and promote the welfare of all children;
- Prevent the neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children;
- Support at-risk families through services which allow children, where appropriate, to remain with their families or return to their families in a timely manner;
- Promote the safety, permanence, and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families; and
- Provide training, professional development, and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce.

These funds have a state match of 25%. Funds are awarded to states based on the state's population of children under age 21 and the state's average per-capita income.

Title IV-B Part 2's goal is promoting safe and stable families and preventing the separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children. States spend most of the funding for services that address: family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification, and adoption promotion and support. There is also a match requirement of 25% for these funds.

C1:2: Foster and Substitute Care

Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (ALI 830501)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830501, Kinship Permanency Incentive Program	\$2,100	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
% change	N/A	47,519.1%	0.0%

This GRF line item is used to fund the Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) Program. The KPI Program provides time-limited incentive payments to kinship caregivers who meet eligibility criteria.

KPI eligibility is open to individuals in which a court has awarded legal custody or guardianship of the child on or after July 1, 2005, to the kinship caregiver based on the best interest of the child. The PCSA must have completed the relative or nonrelative substitute placement approval process, a criminal background check, and an application form, and the gross income of the caregiver's family must not exceed 300% FPL. Eligible kinship caregivers receive an initial payment amount of \$525 per child, and subsequent payments at six-month intervals of \$300. The incentive may not exceed eight payments.

H.B. 96 earmarks \$5.0 million in each fiscal year for KPI from Fund 3V62 line item 830605, TANF Block Grant.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (ALI 830502)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830502, Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
% change	N/A	0.0%	0.0%

H.B. 96 requires that this line item be used to provide up to \$333,333 in each fiscal year to support administrative costs associated with existing court-appointed special advocate programs and up to \$666,667 in each fiscal year be used to establish court-appointed special advocate programs in areas of the state that are not served by an existing program and to support existing programs.

In collaboration with the county family and children first council, a CDJFS or PCSA that receives an allocation from ODJFS from GRF appropriation items 830506, Family and Children Services, or 830502, Court Appointed Special Advocates, is permitted to transfer a portion of either or both allocations to a flexible funding pool.

Foster Care Program (ALI 830603)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3N00 ALI 830603, Foster Care Program	\$211,443,907	\$337,778,385	\$338,091,973
% change	N/A	59.8%	0.1%

This federally funded line item is used to issue monthly foster care payments to foster parents or institutions to support an out-of-home placement for a child, as well as for some state and county administration expenses. PCSAs pay a portion of the nonfederal share of foster care placement costs using state child protection allocations. Costs in excess of amounts provided from state and federal sources are paid by PCSAs. The line item also supports the Independent Living Program and KGAP.

Overview of foster and substitute care

Foster care

Title IV-E foster care funds are used to provide funds to Title IV-E agencies to assist with the costs of foster care maintenance for eligible children; administrative expenses to manage the program; and training for staff, foster parents, and certain private agency staff. Foster care maintenance payments are issued monthly to foster parents or institutions to support foster care. Foster care maintenance payments vary by county and can also vary if the child has a special need. ODJFS sets the minimum and maximum ceilings for per-diem rates. Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance is reimbursed at the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP).

Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KGAP)

There are both state and federal KGAP programs, which are available to kinship caregivers who become legal guardians after caring for a child for at least six consecutive months as foster parents. The primary objectives of KGAP are to facilitate another permanency planning option for children and assist kinship caregivers. Under the program, financial payments are made available to kinship caregivers who take guardianship of a child previously in the custody of a PCSA. To receive state KGAP payments, the kinship caregiver must have also obtained foster care certification.

DCY also administers the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program Connections to Twenty-One (KGAP C21) Program. Kinship guardianship young adults who are age 18 may be able to continue kinship guardianship assistance payments up to age 21 if certain eligibility criteria are met.

Independent Living Program

PCSAs are required to provide independent living services to youth at least 14 years old who are in substitute care. The goal of this program is to help youths successfully transition into adulthood and become self-sufficient. Program services include life skills development training, education and vocational training, preventative health activities, financial assistance, housing, employment services, self-esteem counseling, and assistance with developing positive relationships and support systems. Individuals 18 to 21 years old, who have been emancipated from substitute care, are also eligible to receive independent living services upon request.

C1:3: Adoption and Pregnancy

Adoption Programs (ALIs 830416, 830503, and 830612)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830416, Adoption Grant Program	\$35,017,467	\$34,000,000	\$34,000,000
% change	N/A	-2.9%	0.0%
GRF ALI 830503, Adoption Services	\$24,205,885	\$23,992,000	\$23,992,000
% change	N/A	-0.9%	0.0%
3980 ALI 830612, Adoption Program	\$140,461,175	\$215,000,000	\$215,000,000
% change	N/A	53.1%	0.0%

GRF line item 830416 is used to administer grants to adoptive parents through the Adoption Grant Program. The program was created by H.B. 45 of the 134th General Assembly (originally under ODJFS). It provides a one-time payment, for each eligible adopted child adopted on or after January 1, 2023, of (1) \$10,000, (2) \$15,000, if the adoptive parent was a foster caregiver for the child, or (3) \$20,000, if the child has been diagnosed with special needs. An adoptive parent can receive a grant if the adoptive parent has not previously received a grant payment for the adopted child and if the adoptive parent does not also currently claim an adoption tax credit for the adopted child. H.B. 96 makes some changes to the grant application process. The bill requires the payment to be provided to eligible applicants to the extent state funds are available. Further, it requires the adoptive parent to be an Ohio resident at the time the adoption was finalized to be eligible for a grant.

GRF line item 830503 is used to provide state funds for Title IV-E adoption payments for eligible children, as well as adoption subsidies that provide maintenance payments to families who adopt children with special needs. Many of the children available for adoption are considered to have special needs because they are of an older age; part of a siblings group; have special physical, mental, or emotional health needs; or have developmental delays. Some special needs children have behavioral and attachment disorders that can present financial challenges for adopting families. These maintenance payments and subsidies help offset some of these costs.

Federal line item 830612, Adoption Program, is used to pass the federal share of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Subsidy to the counties. In addition, the line item provides funds for children adopted from foster care with medically documented special needs. The line item also provides funding for state administration.

H.B. 96 additionally earmarks \$10.0 million in each fiscal year from Federal Fund 3980 appropriation item 830612, Adoption Program; Federal Fund 3270 appropriation item 830601, Child Welfare; and GRF appropriation item 830506, Family and Children Services, to provide funds to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to implement statewide the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program of professional recruiters who use a child-focused model to find permanent homes for children in Ohio foster care.

Adoption subsidies in Ohio

There are several types of adoption subsidies in Ohio. These are briefly described below.

Title IV-E subsidies are provided for children who meet eligibility guidelines. The program provides a monthly subsidy to eligible families that adopt children with special needs or circumstances. Many of the children in foster care are eligible. The benefits may include a monthly payment and possibly a Medicaid card. The subsidy is paid for with a combination of federal, state, and local funds. The federal portion is reimbursed at the FMAP. State funds pay the match of the first \$350 and locals pay the remaining amounts.

Adoption Assistance Connections (AAC) provides financial assistance to eligible families who adopt children at ages 16 or 17 and then continue to support them as they transition to adulthood. Families may receive a monthly payment and/or Medicaid coverage, and support may continue until the young adult reaches age 21, as long as other eligibility criteria are met.

The State Adoption Maintenance Subsidy is provided to parents who have adopted children with special needs who are not Title IV-E eligible. Children who qualify may be eligible for Medicaid coverage. However, to qualify for the subsidy the adoptive family's gross income must not exceed 120% of the median income of a family of the same size. The subsidy is paid for with state funds.

The Non-Recurring Adoption Subsidy provides a one-time reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs incurred by families that adopt special needs children. Such costs include attorney fees, court costs, medical evaluations, and travel. The federal government provides some reimbursements relating to these payments.

The Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy provides reimbursement for some post adoption services needed for special needs children. It is intended to pay for services not covered by other subsidy programs, insurance programs, or Medicaid.

Parenting and Pregnancy Program (ALI 830415)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830415, Parenting and Pregnancy	\$6,206,787	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
% change	N/A	61.1%	0.0%

This GRF line item provides services for pregnant women and parents or other relatives caring for children 12 months of age or younger that do both of the following: promote childbirth, parenting, and alternatives to abortion; and meet one or more of the four purposes of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant.

DCY may enter into an agreement with an entity wishing to provide services under the program if the entity: (1) is a private, not-for-profit entity, (2) is an entity whose primary purpose is to promote childbirth, rather than abortion, through counseling and other services, including parenting and adoption support, (3) provides services to pregnant women and parents or other relatives caring for children 12 months of age or younger, (4) does not charge pregnant women and parents or other relatives caring for children 12 months of age or younger a fee for any services received, (5) is not involved in or associated with any abortion activities, including providing abortion counseling or referrals to abortion clinics, performing abortion-related medical procedures, or engaging in pro-abortion advertising, and (6) does not discriminate in its provision of services on the basis of race, religion, color, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or gender. An entity that has entered into an agreement with DCY may enter into a subcontract with another entity under which the other entity provides all or part of the program's services. A subcontract may be entered into with another entity only if that entity meets certain conditions.

H.B. 96 reappropriates the available balance at the end of FY 2026 to FY 2027 to be used for the same purposes described above.

Family and Children Services Collections (ALI 830615)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
4E70 ALI 830615, Family and Children Services Collections	\$331,426	\$650,000	\$650,000
% change	N/A	96.1%	0.0%

This line item supports the abovementioned Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) Program, which provides reimbursement for some post adoption medical services needed for special needs children not covered under other programs.

Choose Life (ALI 830617)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5CN0 ALI 830617, Choose Life	\$41,535	\$80,000	\$80,000
% change	N/A	92.6%	0.0%

This line item is used to provide for the material needs of pregnant women who are planning to place their children up for adoption or for infants awaiting their placement with adoptive parents, as well as for related counseling, training, and advertising expenses. The line item is supported by contributions received from “Choose Life” license plates. This revenue is deposited into the Choose Life Fund (Fund 5CN0). Funds are distributed to counties in proportion to the number of Choose Life license plates issued in each county. However, if no eligible organization from the appropriate county applies for funding, organizations from other counties may apply for funds if it provides services to women residing in that county.

C1:4: Ohio Children’s Trust Fund

Children’s Trust Fund (ALIs 830600 and 830602)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
1980 ALI 830600, Children’s Trust Fund	\$2,511,526	\$5,770,407	\$5,800,246
% change	N/A	129.8%	0.5%
3D30 ALI 830602, Children’s Trust Fund	\$2,524,830	\$7,030,643	\$7,048,243
% change	N/A	178.5%	0.3%

Appropriation item 830600, Children’s Trust Fund, provides state funding for the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF). Revenues are generated from fees collected on divorce and dissolution filings, and nominal surcharges on birth and death certificates. These funds are earmarked for each county through a formula based on the number of children living in each county.

Federally funded line item 830602, Children's Trust Fund, provides funds to OCTF including Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant dollars to support statewide investment in child abuse and neglect prevention programming.

OCTF Overview

OCTF was created in 1984 and is the state's primary funding agent for programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. OCTF is governed by a 15-member board which consists of state agency administrators, gubernatorial appointees, and legislators. Board members are responsible for overall child abuse and neglect prevention policy, program direction, and monitoring expenditures from OCTF. DCY staff provide administrative support to the board, which includes budgeting, procurement, accounting, and other management functions. As required by state law, OCTF funding focuses exclusively on support for primary and secondary prevention activities. Primary prevention services available to the community are designed to prevent child abuse and neglect before they occur, and include advocacy efforts, public awareness campaigns, and training of professionals. Secondary prevention services include those that target populations at risk for child abuse and neglect, such as parent education and support services.

H.B. 96 earmarks up to \$1.0 million in each fiscal year in Fund 3V62 line item 830605, TANF Block Grant, for OCTF.

C1:5: Family and Children First Activities

Family and Children First (ALIs 830410 and 830613)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830410, Family and Children First	\$2,544,214	\$2,706,000	\$2,706,000
% change	N/A	6.4%	0.0%
2320 ALI 830613, Family and Children First	\$1,842,818	\$2,485,214	\$2,514,051
% change	N/A	34.9%	1.2%

These line items will be used to pay operating costs and initiatives of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council. The Council is a partnership of state and local government, as well as communities and families. Its purpose is to enhance community capacity, coordinate services, and engage families. Funding for line item 830613 comes from contributions from participating state agencies represented on the Cabinet Council (departments of Aging, Budget and Management, Children and Youth, Developmental Disabilities, Education and Workforce, Job and Family Services, Health, Medicaid, Behavioral Health, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Rehabilitation and Correction, and Youth Services).

H.B. 96 permits a board of county commissioners to decline to establish or maintain a county family and children first council if it determines all of the following conditions exist in the county: (1) alternative programs and services exist to meet the needs of those served by a county council, (2) a county council is not or would not be sustainably funded, and (3) the director of the CDJFS, executive director of the PCSA, and county developmental disability board, each recommend a county council not be established or maintained.

Family and Children Activities (ALI 830607)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
4F10 ALI 830607, Family and Children Activities	\$0	\$655,000	\$655,000
% change	N/A	N/A	0.0%

This line item is used to provide support to specific grants awarded for families and children. Revenues come from grants and gifts from nonprofit private philanthropic foundations. The expenditures funded by this line item support programs that enhance the health, safety, and well-being of children and families.

C1:6: Administration and Grants**Child Welfare Training Support (ALI 830618)**

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5BN1 ALI 830618, Child Welfare Training Support	\$3,041,158	\$7,387,465	\$7,387,465
% change	N/A	142.9%	0.0%

This line item funds the state portion of the Child Welfare Training Program for county personnel, child welfare-related administrative expenses, and tuition assistance for students majoring in social work who agree to work in county child welfare agencies after graduation. Fund 5BN1 consists of funds withheld from federal reimbursements from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act including: (a) 5% on administrative reimbursements to juvenile courts, (b) 2.5% on administrative reimbursements to county child welfare agencies, and (c) 5% on reimbursed legal representation costs.

Family and Children Support (ALI 830619)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5U60 ALI 830619, Family and Children Support	\$133,661	\$400,000	\$400,000
% change	N/A	199.3%	0.0%

Fund 5U60 consists of child support collected for children within the foster care program. This line item provides funding to support the passthrough of child support payments paid, which offset the cost of foster care payments made by the federal government through the program funded by Title IV-E. This line item supports DCY's goal of reducing the rate of foster care reentry.

Federal Children and Youth Grants (ALI 830623)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3IU0 ALI 830623, Federal Children and Youth Grants	\$10,609,633	\$52,000,000	\$52,000,000
% change	N/A	390.1%	0.0%

This line item funds activities supported by several federal grants, including the Children's Justice Grant; Child Abuse and Neglect Grant; Adoption Incentive Grant; Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting; and Head Start, among others. The Children's Justice Act Grant funds the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. The Child Abuse and Neglect Grant is used for creating and improving the use of multi-disciplinary teams and interagency protocols to enhance investigations and improve legal preparation and representation. This includes procedures for appealing and responding to appeals of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, and provisions for appointment of an individual to represent a child in judicial proceedings. The Adoption Incentive Grant is awarded to states that exceed the national foster child adoption, older child adoption, or special needs adoption baselines. All activities allowable under Title IV-B and Title IV-E, including post-adoption services, may be funded from this grant. Other grants support maternal, infant, and child wellness activities.

Additionally, H.B. 96 requires up to \$195,000 in each fiscal year from this line item to be used for the training of guardians ad litem and court-appointed special advocates as well as to conduct a study to demonstrate the impact of court-appointed special advocate volunteers on outcomes for children who are in child welfare custody as a result of abuse, neglect, or dependency.

C1:7: Responsible Fatherhood Initiative

Responsible Fatherhood Initiative Grant Program (ALI 830421)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830421, Responsible Fatherhood Initiative Grant Program	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$15,000,000
% change	N/A	N/A	200.0%

H.B. 96 requires DCY, through the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, to contract with a nonprofit organization for the development and implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative and to award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide support to fathers and materials and community engagement on fatherhood. The Initiative will include a statewide media campaign that increases the awareness of the importance of, and resources and information for, fathers being involved in their children's lives. This line item will support the new Initiative.

C1:8: Children and Youth Community Initiatives

Children and Youth Community Initiatives (ALI 830620)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5BO1 ALI 830620, Children and Youth Community Initiatives	\$7,594,672	\$20,000,000	\$10,000,000
% change	N/A	163.3%	-50.0%

This line item supports community-based initiatives, such as independent legal representation provided to child welfare-involved families. States are now permitted to draw down federal Title IV-E reimbursement for these purposes.

Category 2: Child Care and related activities

C2:1: Child Care

Child Care State/Maintenance of Effort (ALI 830400)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830400, Child Care State/Maintenance of Effort	\$93,636,000	\$93,636,000	\$93,636,000
% change	N/A	0.0%	0.0%

This GRF line item is used to provide payments for publicly funded child care services. Expenditures from this line item are also used to draw down the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant. This line item provides state match for the CCDF grant.

Early Care and Education Learning Standards (ALI 830409)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830409, Early Care and Education Learning Standards	\$2,035,615	\$6,052,091	\$6,150,959
% change	N/A	197.3%	1.6%

These funds are used for the implementation of curricula, assessments, and learning activities that are aligned with the science of reading and the early learning and development standards. Additionally, this GRF line item will support the state's work on the early learning assessment, referred to as the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). This assessment measures readiness for kindergarten in various areas, including language and literacy, mathematics, social foundations, and physical well-being and motor development.

Child Care Cred Program (ALI 830414)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830414, Child Care Cred Program	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$0
% change	N/A	N/A	-100.0%

This line item supports the new Child Care Cred Program, established in H.B. 96, which will allow costs of child care to be shared by participating employees, employers, and DCY. A participating employer is authorized to select one or more of its employees to participate in the

program. A participating employee's family income cannot exceed 400% of the federal poverty level. Additionally, the child care provider must be licensed or certified as specified by the bill.

Child Care Provider Recruitment (ALI 830418)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830418, Child Care Provider Recruitment	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,850,000
% change	N/A	N/A	85.0%

This line item supports the new Child Care Recruitment and Mentorship Grant Program, established in H.B. 96, to help increase the number of licensed child care providers in the state and to assist recruited entities and individuals.

Early Care and Education (ALI 830500)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830500, Early Care and Education	\$140,781,977	\$141,285,000	\$141,285,000
% change	N/A	0.4%	0.0%

This GRF line item will be used to provide payments for publicly funded child care services. Families enrolled onto PFCC must meet initial eligibility requirements (145% FPL or 150% FPL for a child with special needs), but can continue to receive services until they reach 300% FPL. The line item is used to meet state match requirements for CCDF, as well as TANF maintenance of effort requirements.

Child Care (ALI 830604)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3H70 ALI 830604, Child Care	\$362,503,309	\$646,049,427	\$591,221,224
% change	N/A	78.2%	-8.5%

This federally funded line item will be used to expend the CCDF mandatory and discretionary grants, as well as the CCDF Block Grant, for publicly funded child care and for child care activities. H.B. 96 requires a portion of this line item in each fiscal year to be used to establish and administer the Child Care Choice Voucher Program. The bill requires the program to provide support, in the form of vouchers, to families to assist with child care costs. The bill also prohibits the program from requiring a participating child care provider that is a type A or licensed type B family child care home to be rated through Step Up to Quality (SUTQ). To be eligible to participate in the program, a family must meet the following conditions: (1) the caretaker parent is employed or participating in a program of education or training for an amount of time reasonably related to the time that the parent's children are receiving child care, (2) the family does not meet the income conditions for initial eligibility under PFCC, but the maximum amount of the family's

income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty line, and (3) the family meets any other condition established by DCY. Under the bill, the program is required to utilize, not later than November 1, 2026, the PFCC payment rates to provide vouchers under the program. However, the bill prohibits the use of enhanced payment rates for SUTQ participation.

TANF Block Grant (ALI 830605)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3V62 ALI 830605, TANF Block Grant	\$361,636,576	\$327,850,000	\$327,850,000
% change	N/A	-9.3%	0.0%

This federally funded line item is used to expend TANF Block Grant dollars budgeted for DCY. TANF provides grant funds to states to provide families with financial assistance and related support services. Each state decides the benefits it will provide and establishes the specific eligibility criteria that must be met to receive financial assistance payments or other types of benefits and services. TANF resources are used to provide cash assistance payments, administered as the Ohio Works First (OWF) Program. TANF funds may also be used to provide short-term benefits and other types of services to TANF-eligible families, mainly families with incomes under 200% FPL. Specific eligibility requirements can vary between programs. Most TANF expenditures are made toward OWF, publicly funded child care, and allocations to counties to administer supportive services. TANF child care expenditures are made under DCY. The remaining TANF expenditures are under ODJFS. H.B. 96 also makes several earmarks from line item 830605, which are described below.

Earmarks from ALI 830605, TANF Block Grant in H.B. 96		
Earmarks	FY 2026	FY 2027
Child Care Choice Voucher Program	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Kinship Permanency Incentive Program	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Ohio Commission on Fatherhood	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Ohio Children's Trust Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
ALI 830605 Earmark Totals	\$58,500,000	\$58,500,000

PFCC overview

DCY licenses Ohio Early Learning and Development programs and helps parents who are working or in school pay for child care through the PFCC Program. As can be seen above, PFCC is funded through a combination of the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grants, TANF, and state spending. TANF dollars may be used to provide child care subsidies to families receiving OWF as well as to other low-income families that meet eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

Families may be eligible for child care with incomes up to 145% FPL (about \$38,643 for a family of three in 2025) and 150% FPL (about \$39,975 for a family of three in 2025) for children with special needs. Regardless, families may remain eligible until their incomes exceed 300% FPL (\$79,950 for a family of three in 2025). Families enrolled onto Ohio Works First, a cash assistance program, administered by ODJFS, can receive services under transitional eligibility. Transitional eligibility allows a person up to 12 months of new or continuing PFCC benefits during their transition out of Ohio Works First when their income is at or below 150% FPL. Families are required to contribute to the costs of child care in the form of copayments, which are established based on income.¹ Children must be under age 13 unless the child has a special need, then the child must be under 18.

Payments

Child care rates vary considerably for each child based on a number of factors, including: the child's age, the type of provider, the amount of time the child receives child care services, and the location of the provider. Rates also vary if the provider is rated and if so, level rating the provider has achieved. As younger children require more care, services, and a higher ratio of care workers per child than older children, payment rates are highest for infants and lowest for school-age children. Additionally, a market rate survey is conducted every two years.

H.B. 96 makes a number of changes to PFCC rates and payments including that payments be made to PFCC providers prospectively and, beginning no later than July 5, 2026, based on a child's enrollment rather than attendance. Additionally, there will be changes for the period of December 31, 2025 through June 30, 2027, which are discussed in detail on page 2.

Licensed child care providers

The federal CCDF Grants are also used to administer child care licensing and quality programs. DCY licenses the following care centers and home types including child care centers, type A homes, type B homes, and child day camps.

Step Up to Quality

Step Up to Quality is a three-tier quality rating and improvement system. SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet and exceed quality program standards. The program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children. A licensed child care program must be rated in SUTQ to provide PFCC. There are, however, several exceptions to the requirement, including, for example, a program that operates only during summer or school breaks. H.B. 45 of the 134th General Assembly established additional exceptions including: a program that is a type A family daycare home or licensed type B family daycare program that provides PFCC to less than 25% of the program's license capacity. PFCC rates are increased as follows: 10% for a bronze SUTQ rating, 15% for a silver SUTQ rating, and 25% for a gold SUTQ rating.

¹ See the [Child Care Weekly Copayment Desk Aide \(PDF\)](#), which may be accessed by conducting a keyword "child care assistance" search on the DCY website: childrenand youth.ohio.gov.

Category 3: Child Health and Wellness

These appropriations provide funding for a number of programs that seek to reduce infant mortality, provide home visiting services or other maternal or child health services, and support identification and intervention for early childhood mental health.

C3:1: Infant Vitality Programs and Grants

Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance (ALI 830402)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830402, Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
% change	N/A	0.0%	0.0%

H.B. 96 requires up to \$500,000 in GRF line item 830402, Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance, in each fiscal year to be used to support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Infant Vitality (ALI 830404)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830404, Infant Vitality	\$13,030,452	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000
% change	N/A	38.1%	0.0%

H.B. 96 requires up to \$5.0 million in each fiscal year in GRF line item 830404, Infant Vitality, to be used to support programming by community and local faith-based service providers that invests in maternal health programs, provides services and support to pregnant mothers, and improves both maternal and infant health outcomes. Additionally, up to \$1.0 million is to be used to support the per-diem nonmedical services provided by residential infant care centers. These earmarks are shown in the table below.

Earmarks from ALI 830404, Infant Vitality in H.B. 96		
Earmarks	FY 2026	FY 2027
Community and Local Faith-Based Service Providers	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Residential Infant Care Centers	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
ALI 830404 Earmark Totals	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000

The remainder of the line item is to be used to fund a multi-pronged population health approach to address infant mortality. This approach may include the following: increasing awareness, supporting data collection, analysis and interpretation to inform decision making and ensure accountability, targeting resources where the need is greatest, and implementing quality improvement science and programming that is evidence-based or based on emerging practices.

Measurable interventions may include activities related to safe sleep, community engagement, group prenatal care, preconception education, continuous support for women during pregnancy and childbirth, patient navigators, community health workers, early childhood home visiting, safe birth spacing, gestational diabetes, smoking cessation tailored for pregnant women, breastfeeding, care coordination, and progesterone.

C3:2: Help Me Grow (ALI 830403)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830403, Help Me Grow	\$48,702,744	\$60,000,000	\$63,000,000
% change	N/A	23.2%	5.0%

This line item funds the Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program. The line item is used to distribute funds in the form of agreements, contracts, grants, or subsidies, to counties to implement the program. Additionally, the appropriation item may be used to support workforce recruitment and retention efforts and data collection efforts through the Ohio Comprehensive Home Visiting Integrated System.

Help Me Grow overview

The Help Me Grow Program is the state's parenting education program for expectant, first-time, and other parents at highest risk for poor child outcomes. Families enrolled in Help Me Grow home visiting services receive maternal health and wellness screenings, child health and development screenings, parenting education, referral to medical and social supports, and facilitated transition to an appropriate development-enhancing program or early child care provider. The goals of the Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program are as follows: to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness.

C3:3: Imagination Library (ALI 830411)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830411, Imagination Library	\$8,000,000	\$8,250,000	\$8,250,000
% change	N/A	3.1%	0.0%

This line item supports childhood literacy efforts through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, which provides free books to children from birth to age five.

C3:4: Child Mental Health Activities

Strong Families Strong Communities (ALI 830406)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830406, Strong Families Strong Communities	\$2,814,092	\$7,500,000	\$2,500,000
% change	N/A	166.5%	-66.7%

In H.B. 96, up to \$5.0 million in FY 2026 in this GRF line item is required to be used to provide funding to qualified entities in Ohio to support any of the following: research into causes, diagnoses, prevention, and treatment of pediatric cancer; and the study of new and novel approaches to researching and treating pediatric cancer, as well as the side effects of cancer treatment, including discovering and developing new drugs, clinical trials, neurosurgery, and other surgical interventions, diagnostics, care management, and learning disabilities. Additionally, up to \$2.0 million in each fiscal year is required to be used to provide funding for community projects across the state that focus on support for families, assisting families in avoiding crisis, and crisis intervention. Funds support grants to local partners to provide services and supports for families with children and youth with intensive needs relating to behavioral health and/or intellectual or developmental disabilities. Lastly, \$500,000 in each fiscal year is required to be provided to Riveon Mental Health and Recovery to support primary care integration. These earmarks are outlined in the table below.

Earmarks from ALI 830406, Strong Families Strong Communities in H.B. 96		
Earmarks	FY 2026	FY 2027
Pediatric Cancer Research	\$5,000,000	\$0
Community Projects	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Riveon Mental Health and Recovery	\$500,000	\$500,000
ALI 830406 Earmark Totals	\$7,500,000	\$2,500,000

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) (ALI 830505)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830505, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)	\$2,682,155	\$4,100,000	\$4,100,000
% change	N/A	52.9%	0.0%

H.B. 96 requires \$100,000 in each fiscal year from this line item to be provided to St. Vincent Family Services to support their Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program. The remainder of the line item is required to be used to promote identification and intervention for early childhood mental health and to enhance healthy social emotional development to reduce preschool expulsions and promote kindergarten readiness. These funds will be used, in

coordination with the Department of Behavioral Health, to support infant and early childhood mental health credentialed professionals and consultation services, as well as administration, workforce development for the program, and program evaluation.

Mental Health Block Grant (ALI 830622)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3A91 ALI 830622, Mental Health Block Grant	\$771,343	\$1,698,892	\$1,698,892
% change	N/A	120.3%	0.0%

This line item is used to support infant and early child mental health consultation, services, and supports through the distribution of federal Mental Health Block Grant funds.

C3:5: Community Projects

Community Projects and Assistance (ALI 830420)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830420, Community Projects and Assistance	\$0	\$3,100,000	\$2,600,000
% change	N/A	N/A	-16.1%

This line item is used to support various earmarks, which are outlined in the table below.

Earmarks from ALI 830420, Community Projects and Assistance in H.B. 96		
Earmarks	FY 2026	FY 2027
3D diagnostic ultrasound machines	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Birthing Beautiful Communities	\$500,000	\$0
Applewood Centers, Inc.	\$100,000	\$100,000
ALI 830420 Earmark Totals	\$3,100,000	\$2,600,000

H.B. 96 requires the DCY Director to purchase 3D diagnostic ultrasound machines and provide them through a grant program to certain Ohio entities that do not (1) charge for ultrasound services provided to pregnant women or (2) promote abortion, perform abortion-related medical procedures, or make referrals for abortions. Line item 830420 will support this grant program.

H.B. 96 requires the funding under this line item for Birthing Beautiful Communities to be used to provide perinatal support services for at-risk mothers and children living in Cuyahoga and Summit counties.

Lastly, funding for Applewood Centers, Inc., is to be used to expand their foster care program.

C3:6: Medicaid

Medicaid Program Support (ALIs 650400 and 650600)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 650400, Medicaid Program Support – State	\$961,022	\$1,393,000	\$1,393,000
% change	N/A	45.0%	0.0%
3F02 ALI 650600, Medicaid Program Support – Federal	\$960,044	\$1,393,000	\$1,393,000
% change	N/A	45.1%	0.0%

Line item 650400 is used for the state share of Medicaid-related administrative expenses within DCY, while line item 650600 is used for the federal share.

C3:7: Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (ALI 830608)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3201 ALI 830608, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
% change	N/A	N/A	0.0%

Federal appropriation item 830608, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, is used to improve access to maternal, infant, and early childhood health and wellness. Activities may include community-based grants, safe sleep awareness and education activities, and clinical strategies. The line item is supported by the federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. The grant funds are deposited into DCY's Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Fund (Fund 3201) and used in the prenatal, maternal, perinatal, and infant domains. ODH receives the majority of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and makes expenditures under line item 440601, Maternal Child Health Block Grant.

Category 4: Early Education and Intervention

This category of appropriations support early education activities, such as funding to provide high-quality preschool services, kindergarten readiness assessments, special education and related services to children with disabilities, and services to infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays.

C4:1: Early Education and Intervention Activities

Early Childhood Education (ALI 830407)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830407, Early Childhood Education	\$56,293,624	\$130,319,450	\$130,320,617
% change	N/A	131.5%	0.0%

Early childhood education grants

This funding supports early childhood education programs that meet certain conditions and provide educational services for children from families with incomes below 200% FPL. Funding is provided to early learning and development programs that provide services to children who are at least three years old but not yet eligible for kindergarten.

Early childhood support and technical assistance

Funding is also used to administer the early childhood education grant program and to provide technical assistance to early learning and development programs receiving funding under the program. The budget specifies that no more than 2.0% of program funding in any fiscal year may be used for these purposes.

Preschool Special Education (ALI 830610)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
3C50 ALI 830610, Preschool Special Education	\$5,860,794	\$16,026,864	\$16,026,864
% change	N/A	173.5%	0.0%

These federal funds are distributed to districts to support special education and related services to children with disabilities between the ages of three and five. Districts are mandated under federal law to provide a free and appropriate public education to these children and are required to develop individualized education plans (IEP) for them. Funds are distributed based on 1997 service levels with adjustments for total population and poverty.

C4:2: Early Intervention

Part C Early Intervention (ALIs 830405 and 830609)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830405, Part C Early Intervention	\$20,958,433	\$30,000,000	\$32,000,000
% change	N/A	43.1%	6.7%
3IT0 ALI 830609, Community Social Service Programs	\$15,730,723	\$22,803,908	\$22,803,908
% change	N/A	45.0%	0.0%

GRF line item 830405 is used to support the administration of Ohio's Early Intervention Services Program. Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated services to parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays. This line item is used to meet maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements. The MOE is equal to the total amount of state and local funds spent for EI in the most recent year for which data is available. Federal funds for the program are expended out of Fund 3IT0 line item 830609, Community Social Service Programs. H.B. 96 allows a portion of line item 830609 to be used by the Early Intervention Services Advisory Council for certain administrative expenses.

H.B. 96 earmarks up to \$7.0 million in FY 2026 and up to \$9.0 million in FY 2027 in line item 830405, Part C Early Intervention, to be used by DCY to subgrant or contract with county boards of developmental disabilities for the provision of early intervention evaluations, assessments, and service coordination. The bill requires boards that accept these funds to maintain the level of local funding for early intervention at the same funding level as the prior fiscal year.

Additionally, \$1.0 million in total in line item 830405 will be used to contract with the Cleveland Sight Center, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio to provide early intervention special instruction services and family support to children under the age of three with blindness or low vision. These earmarks are outlined in the table below.

Earmarks from ALI 830405, Part C Early Intervention in H.B. 96		
Earmarks	FY 2026	FY 2027
County DD Boards	\$7,000,000	\$9,000,000
Cleveland Sight Center, Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
ALI 830405 Earmark Totals	\$8,000,000	\$10,000,000

Early Intervention overview

EI funds target children under three years of age who have or are at risk of having a developmental delay and their families. Funds are provided to local family and children first councils. The councils provide service coordination, evaluation, and assessment. Funds are also used to contract for direct services. All eligible infants and toddlers are offered a multi-disciplinary assessment to determine their need for early intervention services. There are two ways in which a child is determined eligible for EI. The first way is that the child has a diagnosed condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay or disability. This delay or disability is measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development; physical development, including vision and hearing; communication development; social or emotional development; and/or adaptive development. The second is that the child has a diagnosed developmental delay of at least a 1.5 standard deviation below the mean in at least one developmental domain or the referred child is determined eligible by informed clinical opinion. Examples of diagnosed conditions with a high probability of developmental delay include chromosomal abnormalities, genetic or congenital disorders, severe sensory impairment, inborn errors of metabolism, disorders reflecting disturbance of nervous system development, disorders secondary to exposure to toxic substances, and severe attachment disorders.

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) governs EI services. This law mandates the following services: comprehensive developmental evaluation and assessment; service coordination; family support; procedural safeguards; individual family service plan (IFSP) development, assessment, and evaluation; and transition services.

Category 5: Administration

This category supports administrative functions of DCY.

C5:1: Administration

Children and Youth Program Management (ALI 830321)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 830321, Children and Youth Program Management	\$47,165,296	\$55,000,000	\$55,500,000
% change	N/A	16.6%	0.9%

This line item is used for administrative functions, operating expenses, and various information technology projects. The funds are used as match for federal funding to support DCY administrative functions, including match for payroll, purchased personal services, conference fees, maintenance, and equipment.

Agency Oversight and Support (ALI 830621)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
5BP1 ALI 830621, Agency Oversight and Support	\$23,669,160	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
% change	N/A	-62.0%	0.0%

This line item is supported by one-time cash transfers from the creation of DCY in the previous biennium and will support one-time projects, such as information technology infrastructure.

H.B. 96 requires the Director of the Office of Budget and Management, on July 1, 2025, or as soon as possible thereafter, to transfer \$4.0 million cash from the Audit Settlements and Contingency Fund (Fund 5BP1) to the General Revenue Fund.

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations
All Fund Groups - Detail**

H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
KID	Department of Children and Youth							
GRF	650400	Medicaid Program Support - State	\$0	\$961,022	\$1,393,000	\$1,393,000	44.95%	0.00%
GRF	830321	Children and Youth Program Management	\$0	\$47,165,296	\$55,000,000	\$55,500,000	16.61%	0.91%
GRF	830400	Child Care State/Maintenance of Effort	\$0	\$93,636,000	\$93,636,000	\$93,636,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	830402	Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	830403	Help Me Grow	\$0	\$48,702,744	\$60,000,000	\$63,000,000	23.20%	5.00%
GRF	830404	Infant Vitality	\$0	\$13,030,452	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000	38.14%	0.00%
GRF	830405	Part C Early Intervention	\$0	\$20,958,433	\$30,000,000	\$32,000,000	43.14%	6.67%
GRF	830406	Strong Families Strong Communities	\$0	\$2,814,092	\$7,500,000	\$2,500,000	166.52%	-66.67%
GRF	830407	Early Childhood Education	\$0	\$56,293,624	\$130,319,450	\$130,320,617	131.50%	0.00%
GRF	830408	Early Learning Assessment	\$0	\$2,144,558	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
GRF	830409	Early Care and Education Learning Standards	\$0	\$2,035,615	\$6,052,091	\$6,150,959	197.31%	1.63%
GRF	830410	Family and Children First	\$0	\$2,544,214	\$2,706,000	\$2,706,000	6.36%	0.00%
GRF	830411	Imagination Library	\$0	\$8,000,000	\$8,250,000	\$8,250,000	3.13%	0.00%
GRF	830414	Child Care Cred Program	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$0	N/A	-100.00%
GRF	830415	Parenting and Pregnancy Program	\$0	\$6,206,787	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	61.11%	0.00%
GRF	830416	Adoption Grant Program	\$0	\$35,017,467	\$34,000,000	\$34,000,000	-2.91%	0.00%
GRF	830418	Child Care Provider Recruitment	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,850,000	N/A	85.00%
GRF	830419	Children's Crisis Care	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	N/A	0.00%
GRF	830420	Community Projects and Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$3,100,000	\$2,600,000	N/A	-16.13%
GRF	830421	Responsible Fatherhood Initiative Grant Program	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$15,000,000	N/A	200.00%
GRF	830500	Early Care and Education	\$0	\$140,781,977	\$141,285,000	\$141,285,000	0.36%	0.00%
GRF	830501	Kinship Permanency Incentive Program	\$0	\$2,100	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	47,519.05%	0.00%
GRF	830502	Court Appointed Special Advocates	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF	830503	Adoption Services	\$0	\$24,205,885	\$23,992,000	\$23,992,000	-0.88%	0.00%
GRF	830505	Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)	\$0	\$2,682,155	\$4,100,000	\$4,100,000	52.86%	0.00%

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations
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H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
KID Department of Children and Youth								
GRF	830506	Family and Children Services	\$0	\$221,424,030	\$291,759,990	\$296,409,990	31.77%	1.59%
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$0	\$730,106,449	\$940,943,531	\$946,543,566	28.88%	0.60%
1980	830600	Children's Trust Fund	\$0	\$2,511,526	\$5,770,407	\$5,800,246	129.76%	0.52%
2320	830613	Family and Children First	\$0	\$1,842,818	\$2,485,214	\$2,514,051	34.86%	1.16%
4E70	830615	Family and Children Services Collections	\$0	\$331,426	\$650,000	\$650,000	96.12%	0.00%
4F10	830607	Family and Children Activities	\$0	\$0	\$655,000	\$655,000	N/A	0.00%
5AK1	830614	Child Care Infrastructure	\$0	\$10,102,147	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
5BN1	830618	Child Welfare Training Support	\$0	\$3,041,158	\$7,387,465	\$7,387,465	142.92%	0.00%
5BO1	830620	Children and Youth Community Initiatives	\$0	\$7,594,672	\$20,000,000	\$10,000,000	163.34%	-50.00%
5BP1	830621	Agency Oversight and Support	\$0	\$23,669,160	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	-61.98%	0.00%
5CNO	830617	Choose Life	\$0	\$41,535	\$80,000	\$80,000	92.61%	0.00%
5KTO	830606	Early Childhood Education	\$0	\$12,809,900	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
5TZ0	830616	Children's Crisis Care	\$0	\$1,146,604	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
5U60	830619	Family and Children Support	\$0	\$133,661	\$400,000	\$400,000	199.26%	0.00%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal			\$0	\$63,224,609	\$46,428,086	\$36,486,762	-26.57%	-21.41%
3201	830608	Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	N/A	0.00%
3270	830601	Child Welfare	\$0	\$9,938,631	\$31,024,665	\$31,147,396	212.16%	0.40%
3980	830612	Adoption Program	\$0	\$140,461,175	\$215,000,000	\$215,000,000	53.07%	0.00%
3A91	830622	Mental Health Block Grant	\$0	\$771,343	\$1,698,892	\$1,698,892	120.25%	0.00%
3C50	830610	Preschool Special Education	\$0	\$5,860,794	\$16,026,864	\$16,026,864	173.46%	0.00%
3D30	830602	Children's Trust Fund	\$0	\$2,524,830	\$7,030,643	\$7,048,243	178.46%	0.25%
3F02	650600	Medicaid Program Support - Federal	\$0	\$960,044	\$1,393,000	\$1,393,000	45.10%	0.00%
3H70	830604	Child Care	\$0	\$362,503,309	\$646,049,427	\$591,221,224	78.22%	-8.49%

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Final Appropriations
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H.B. 96 - Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Detail by Agency			FY 2024	FY 2025	Appropriation FY 2026	Appropriation FY 2027	FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change	FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change
KID Department of Children and Youth								
3IT0	830609	Community Social Service Programs	\$0	\$15,730,723	\$22,803,908	\$22,803,908	44.96%	0.00%
3IU0	830623	Federal Children and Youth Grants	\$0	\$10,609,633	\$52,000,000	\$52,000,000	390.12%	0.00%
3N00	830603	Foster Care Program	\$0	\$211,443,907	\$337,778,385	\$338,091,973	59.75%	0.09%
3V62	830605	TANF Block Grant	\$0	\$361,636,576	\$327,850,000	\$327,850,000	-9.34%	0.00%
Federal Fund Group Subtotal			\$0	\$1,122,440,964	\$1,663,655,784	\$1,609,281,500	48.22%	-3.27%
Department of Children and Youth Total			\$0	\$1,915,772,021	\$2,651,027,401	\$2,592,311,828	38.38%	-2.21%