

Nine policies that work to improve health value

By adopting evidence-informed policies and working with private-sector partners, policymakers can make Ohio a leader in health value. Below are examples of policy opportunities for the state.

1 CHILDREN

- **Close widening academic gaps** by prioritizing federal COVID-19 relief funds for high-intensity tutoring, chronic absenteeism interventions and school-based trauma counseling for children who have experienced adversity, disruption and learning loss
- **Strengthen K-12 student wellness** by allocating funds to evidence-based drug prevention, social-emotional learning and school-based mental health
- **Expand access to quality early childhood care and education** by increasing eligibility for Ohio's child care subsidy to at least 200% of the federal poverty level, paying childcare workers more, and streamlining rapid access to child care

2 EQUITY

- **Advance anti-racist and anti-discriminatory policies** by promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in leadership; engaging in training on racism, discrimination and its impacts; and improving access to culturally and linguistically competent information and services
- **Level the playing field**, starting with increasing funding and/or allocating one-time federal COVID-19 relief funding to lead hazard mitigation; construction of accessible, affordable, quality housing for people with very low incomes; rental assistance initiatives and eviction prevention
- **Identify gaps in outcomes and evaluate policy impacts** by building systems and capacity across the public and private sectors to collect and break out data on systematically disadvantaged Ohioans (e.g., race and ethnicity, disability status, education and income)

3 PREVENTION

- **Strengthen the public health workforce and data systems** by ensuring that the state and local health departments have diverse and adequate staffing for epidemiology, communicable disease control and communications, and by fully implementing the recommendations of the March 2021 [Ohio Auditor of State Performance Audit](#)
- **Prevent addiction and overdose deaths** by dedicating a portion of future revenue from tobacco and alcohol taxes, opioid settlements and pandemic relief toward smoking prevention, addiction treatment, recovery supports, harm reduction and overdose reversal
- **Prevent chronic disease through improved access to healthy food** by streamlining access to SNAP and WIC for eligible Ohioans and expanding Produce Perks and Produce Prescriptions



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