**Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality**

 **2020-2021 Platform Goals and Budget Realities**

**REVENUE *(Overall Grade F)***

The limited liability loophole should be tightened, lowering the amount companies who claim business income deductions can write off from state income taxes from $250,000 to $100,000. This would generate hundreds of millions of dollars for the state to use on health and human services.

* **While lobbyists and lawyers were restricted from using the tax break– most business owners will avoid taxes on the first $250,000 of their income and pay a lower rate of 3 percent on the remaining money.**

The state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) should be increased and strengthened by making it refundable and removing caps. The EITC is a tax credit targeted at working people who have low to moderate incomes, particularly those with children, its federal counterpart has been proven to be effective at lifting families out of poverty. If made refundable the state EITC would put money into the pockets of low-income working people.

* **Ohio’s EITC was increased from 10% to 30% of the federal level in the FY20-21 Transportation Budget and the income cap was removed; it was not made refundable.**

There should be no reduction in income tax rates. We should reinstate the 7.5% tax rate for income over $217,400.

* **The 7.5% tax rate for incomes over $217,400 was not reinstated.**
* **Income taxes will be shaved back by 4 percent for Ohioans across the board, which will save someone making $35,000 a year $29 and someone making $125,000 a year $164. The bottom two tax brackets will be eliminated so Ohioans making less than $21,750 a year will pay no state income taxes.**

**CHILD CARE *(Overall Grade C)***

Publicly funded child care eligibility should be expanded from 130% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, making eligibility available to more Ohio families. Currently, 130% of FPL equates to $27,000 for a family of three with two children and one adult.

* **Eligibility for publicly funded child care was not expanded.**
* **The state will invest more than $99 million annually to improve the quality of Ohio’s childcare system and help providers recruit qualified educators. An additional, one-time $10 million investment was included to help childcare providers access the capital, services, and resources they need to meet standards set in Ohio’s Step Up to Quality rating and improvement system.**
* **Governor DeWine has suggested that the above investment will provide a strong base for Ohio’s child care producers to achieve quality before he expands access back up to at least 150% of FPL.**

**EDUCATION *(Overall Grade C)***

Public education should be affordable and well-funded, funding should be in line with the DeRolph decision.

* **The state continues to ignore the DeRolph decision.**
* **Ohio schools will get a state funding increase the next two years, but it will mainly come in the form of targeted student wellness funding and will vary significantly from district to district.**

**Includes $675 million for “student wellness and success funding aimed at tackling health, drug, social service and other non-academic student issues that many believe hinder student learning.**

**School districts with higher levels of poverty will receive larger shares. This year, it will range from $20 per student in the highest-income districts to $250 per student in the lowest-income districts. In the second year, the funding range will increase to $30-$360 per student, again based on family income averages.**

**FOOD ASSISTANCE *(Overall Grade B)***

The state should implement and fund a comprehensive approach to hunger relief investing at least $30 million per year to address food insecurity.

* **Invests $24.55 million per year to fund hunger relief an increase of $5 million from the previous budget cycle, this is a step in the right direction.**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND *(Overall Grade D-)***

The Local Government Fund should be increased to 2010 levels to adequately fund police, fire, EMS, sanitation and other services at the City and County level.

* **Increases the Local Government Fund by 1.68%, resulting in an additional $5.2 million each year.**

**HOUSING *(Overall Grade C-)***

The state should provide an additional $20 million per year to the Housing Trust Fund from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) so that it will continue to support affordable, accessible housing.

* **The County recorder fees were increased by $3, boosting funding for the Housing Trust Fund for homelessness and affordable housing grants by $2.5 million/year.**

**CASH ASSISTANCE *(Overall Grade F)***

Cash assistance should be extended to 5 years allowed by existing Federal law from 3 years. The family violence option should be restored as a reason for extending cash assistance from 3 years to 5 years. An increase in cash assistance to all eligible households by $100/month

* **No action taken**

**KINSHIP CARE *(Overall Grade A)***

More resources should be allocated to kinship care providers making kinship care support equal to that of foster care support.

* **No action taken on equity between foster care and kinship care.**
* **$8.5 million allocated to establish a Kinship Navigator Program in Ohio.**
* **$5 million allocated for foster and kinship family recruitment and engagement efforts.**

**OLDER POPULATIONS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES *(Overall Grade B-)***

Increased funding should be provided for senior services. Funding for senior services has experienced sharp decline over the years, these services provide support for Ohioans 60 and older who live at home but need help as they age with basics like home-delivered meals, transportation and personal care. Cuts to senior services make it hard for elderly Ohioans to care for themselves and jeopardizes their safety.

* **$1.2 million in additional funding added to the Senior Community Services Block Grant, but it is directed solely to the Senior Farmers’ Market program.**

There should be increased funding for Adult Protective Services to at least $10 million per fiscal year with a base allocation of $65,000 per county. These services prevent physical, emotional and financial harm to vulnerable seniors. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project estimates that each year, 105,000 older adults (over 60) in Ohio are abused or neglected. There is much need in the state for at least one caseworker in each county dedicated to making sure that seniors are safe, well cared for and not living in fear or abuse; current funding levels do not allow for this.

* **State investment brings APS line-item from $2.74 million/year ($31,000/county) to $4.23 million/year ($48,000/county).**

**HEALTH CARE/MEDICAID *(Overall Grade A)***

The Medicaid Expansion program in Ohio should be protected. Medicaid Expansion provides health insurance for 600,000+ Ohioans including individuals with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, $17,236 per year.

In addition to stopping any freezes on Medicaid Expansion in this budget cycle NOBLE wanted to see an exclusion of the Healthy Ohio program. The Healthy Ohio program would require non-disabled, working-age adults on Medicaid to pay premiums into a modified health savings account.

* **Maintains Medicaid expansion as is without new eligibility restrictions.**

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION *(Overall Grade C)***

$150 million a year should be invested in public transit and related alternatives.

* **$70 million a year will be allocated for the state’s 61 urban and rural transit systems coming from the General Revenue Fund.**