

ABLE Platform 2009

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**Advocates
for Budget
Legislation
Equality**

ABLE is an Ohio coalition of individuals and organizations working together towards the goal of including necessary funding for critical health and human services in the FY10-11 state budget.

PRESERVE AND RESTORE REVENUE

- Roll back personal income tax cuts that took effect over the past 2 years.
- Restore the 7.5% tax rate on income over \$200,000.
- Rein in unnecessary tax breaks and close tax loopholes.
- Means test the Homestead exemption for higher-income seniors.
- Retain and strengthen the corporate franchise tax.
- Use the rainy day fund to maintain services.
- Establish a State Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Remove fee increases on essential living items such as driver's license and birth certificates.

HEALTH CARE:

- Increase eligibility for family Medicaid coverage and medical benefits for adults without dependents up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL).
- Provide adequate resources for an effective communication system for Food Stamps, Medicaid and cash assistance participants.
- Maintain Medicaid eligibility for SCHIP at 300% of the FPL and eligibility for pregnant women at 200% of the FPL.
- Maintain the Medicaid buy-in for children whose family income is above 300% of FPL and the buy-in for adults with disabilities.
- Eliminate prescription co-pays under Medicaid.
- Restore full funding for services categorized as optional including dental, vision, podiatry and psychological.
- Restore Free Clinics and Federal Qualified Health Centers funding to the 2008/09 budget level.

CASH ASSISTANCE:

- Develop a fund to assist low-income Ohioans in obtaining mandatory identification documents.
- Restore funding for General Assistance programs eliminated in the 1990s.
- Increase Benefit Bank funding to \$3 million per year.
- Boost payments to kinship care providers to \$300 per child per month and restore \$10 million Kinship Permanency Incentive line item.
- Restore \$3 million line item for Ohio Navigator Program.
- Increase monthly cash assistance base by \$100 and adjust it annually for inflation.
- Establish 5-year cash assistance eligibility state-wide and restore eligibility to those who have reached the 3-year time limit.

ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS:

- Expand assistance for elderly Ohioans able to remain in their homes by funding community based services at the FY2004 level adjusted for inflation.
- Increase funding for PASSPORT.
- Restore funding for Adult Protective Services to \$12.4 million over 2 years.

HOUSING:

- Expand access to affordable housing by removing the funding cap for the Housing Trust Fund by allocating 100% of the recordation fees.

FOOD:

- Increase funding for Second Harvest Food Banks statewide to \$34 million over the biennium.

CHILD CARE:

- Maintain eligibility for childcare vouchers at 200% of the FPL.
- Assist daycare centers that accept childcare vouchers by increasing reimbursements rates to childcare centers to 65% of prevailing rates and include 31 days off per child in a year to cover child absences and holidays.

INDEPENDENT LIVING:

- Restore Independent Living Council line-item to \$450,000 per year.