

OACCP Update
HB 64 - State of Ohio Budget Bill SFY 2016 & 2017
By Karen Lampe, Policy and Funding Chair
6/29/2015

\$113 Million in New Dollars to Support ECE

With your help, OACCP worked tirelessly with our advocate counterparts to ensure that Early Childhood funding and policy would be advanced in this budget bill. We are very excited to say that our legislators and the Governor's office worked alongside of us to guarantee this big win for early care and education.

Special thanks to Dr. Angel Rhodes from Governor Kasich's office and especially to Senator Peggy Lehner who was tenacious, visionary and passionate about advancing the quality of early care and education in our state!

Here is a snapshot of the outcomes of the Early Childhood portions of HB 64:

- Aligns ODJFS and ODE co-pay to eliminate co-pays for families at 100% FPL and below
- Aligns ODJFS eligibility with other programs and reduces intake to 130% FPL.
- Eliminates the "cliff-effect" by raising outtake to 300% FPL to gradually allow families to assume the total cost of services.
- \$40 million in new dollars budgeted to support Preschool expansion in targeted high needs communities.
 - Align eligibility utilizing "Ohio Benefits" for ODJFS and ODE in Fall 2016
 - Focusing public PS on 4 year olds in Fall 2016
- Codify SUTQ and its goals in law
 - Focuses financial incentives to early learning and development programs that provided publically funded services
 - Set percentage requirements for ODJFS to ensure that publically funded children are served in high quality centers and Type A homes (3-5 stars):
 - 25% of by June 30, 2017
 - 40% of by June 30, 2019
 - 60% of by June 30, 2021
 - 80% of by June 30, 2023
 - 100% of by June 30 2025
 - Create a requirement for ODE, ODJFS with the help of the Early Childhood Advisory Council to make recommendations by October 31, 2016 on ways to accelerate program achievement of the three highest tiers of SUTQ.
 - Recommendations will also include identifying strategies for the appropriate ratings of Type B homes.
- \$40 million in new dollars of financial support for the ODJFS child care system to be targeted to rural providers and/or 3-5 star rated programs.
- Language to allow ODJFS to suspend a child care license prior to a chapter 119 hearing in extreme situations.
- \$5 for Early Childhood Mental Health Counselors to support children at-risk for ECE disenrollment due to challenging behaviors.