



Investing in a Thriving Economy

Economic Development

The **All Ohio Future Fund** will provide a historic investment in economic development in our state. Governor DeWine's budget plan allocates \$2.5 billion in available funds to support site infrastructure, attract new businesses, and encourage workforce development across the state. Committing to this development plan will support Ohio's position as a go-to state for companies considering relocation or expansion.

As part of the executive budget, **Broadband development and expansion** efforts will receive \$403 million in federal funding for partnerships to build infrastructure and increase adoption of high-speed internet in communities with limited access.

The budget sets aside \$150 million for the Ohio Department of Development to establish new **innovation hubs** near anchor research institutions, which will increase research and development, create new jobs, preserve existing jobs, and support improved economic conditions throughout Ohio.

The **Ohio State Fair** is an annual event epitomizing the Ohio experience. The Expo 2050 Task Force, created by Governor DeWine in 2019 to study the long-term strategic vision of the Ohio Expo Center and the Ohio State Fair, has established a master plan to implement an updated vision for the fair with the master plan framework serving as a launching point to modernize and enhance the fairgrounds for the future. The budget includes \$190 million to revamp and modernize the 360-acre site by adding exhibition facilities and parking, updating existing buildings, and enhancing the overall guest experience.

Skilled Workforce

The Governor's budget continues to provide Ohioans the opportunity to improve their earning power through workforce **upskilling efforts** that match Ohioans with in-demand jobs. With \$30 million per fiscal year from the budget, a new WorkFORCE Ohio program will identify the most high-demand occupations of the future and challenge our colleges and universities to increase opportunities for Ohioans to pursue certificates, credentials, and degrees that will lead to employment in critically needed high-demand jobs.

The budget continues the popular **TechCred program** by providing \$25.2 million per fiscal year to support Ohio workers in expanding their skills by earning 20,000 technology-focused credentials in each year of the biennium.

The Industry Sector Partnership Grant Program is funded at \$7.5 million per fiscal year to support partnerships among businesses, schools, training providers, and community leaders, **strengthening the local workforce**.

With \$7 million per fiscal year, the budget fast-tracks Ohioans seeking new workforce skills by providing **short-term certificates** at Ohio's community colleges and technical centers to quickly qualify Ohioans to work in growing industries.

In another future-focused initiative, through DriveOhio, the budget continues Ohio's support for **electric vehicle infrastructure** with \$2 million over the biennium for EV workforce training.



Quality and Affordable Childcare

A one-time pilot **childcare scholarship program for critical occupations and other direct service professionals** is established in the budget with \$150 million of dedicated federal funding. This program will increase access to licensed childcare programs for infants and toddlers with priority for those in rural and urban areas.

The budget will also **increase access to quality childcare** by raising income eligibility for publicly funded childcare from 142% to 160% of the federal poverty level (\$48,000 per year for a family of four). This will ease the financial burden on working parents and caregivers who struggle to find childcare or face the choice of taking a better-paying job and risk losing their childcare assistance. The budget also supplies an additional \$92.2 million over the biennium to provide 11,525 more children from low-income families with high-quality early childhood education. Research shows that children who participate in the program outperform their peers in both kindergarten readiness and literacy proficiency by third grade.

K-12 Learning Innovation

The budget includes \$100 million in **Career-Tech Equipment Grants** to support equipment purchases that establish and expand career-technical education and Innovative Workforce Incentive Programs (IWIP) in schools and districts throughout the state. Priority will be given to career-technical education programs that support careers on Ohio's Top Jobs List and that establish or expand IWIP programs.

A \$200 million investment in **Career-Tech Construction Grants** will address waiting lists for career-technical education programs and the need for education and training programs for occupations critical to Ohio's economy.

This program will provide grants to city, local, and exempted village school districts designated as the lead of a career-technical planning district to help cover facilities and equipment costs for education and training programs that support Ohio's Top Jobs List or qualify for IWIP.

The importance of **computer science education** is supported with \$18.5 million per year for a program to address the shortage of computer science teachers, provide support to school districts to create computer science courses, improve access to computer science courses, and encourage more students to get college degrees in computer science. This program will place Ohio at the national forefront of computer science education and provide access to quality computer science education for Ohio's students.

Innovative Colleges and Universities

In addition to investing in Ohio's people by ensuring college affordability and supporting scholarship programs, Governor DeWine's budget increases the emphasis on higher education innovation that prepares Ohioans to compete in the global workforce.

This budget expands the **Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAPIDS)** program by adding \$200 million to support collaborative projects between Ohio's 49 technical centers, 14 public universities,



23 community colleges, and other qualifying institutions in Ohio. This funding **will strengthen education and training opportunities** that maximize workforce development efforts in defined areas of the state. These funds will provide workforce facility upgrades, training equipment, and laboratory resources that will allow students to learn skills for in-demand jobs in the region.

Public institutions of higher education will address barriers that may otherwise interrupt college completion with a new \$40 million per fiscal year **Access Challenge Program**. Services and interventions include advising, counseling, success coaching, bridge programs, and evidence-based wraparound student supports and services.

This budget includes a new \$5 million internship pilot program designed to **retain the highest possible number of college and career-technical students in Ohio** post-graduation to contribute to Ohio's expanding economic opportunities. The program will connect Ohio college and career-technical students with Ohio-based employers to promote work-based learning opportunities, including internships, externships, and co-ops.

Health Care Workforce and Care Innovation

With \$110 million from the budget, a new **State of Ohio Action for Resiliency Network or SOAR Network**, will solidify Ohio as a national leader in mental health research and innovation. The center will strategically research complex and diverse factors related to the prevention and treatment of, and recovery from, mental illness and substance use disorders; reveal innovative strategies that result in improved recovery, health, and wellness for Ohioans; and deploy those strategies in practice, programs, and policy. The center plans to partner with the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, which is dedicated to collaboration among local governments, state government, and community members in Ohio's efforts to recover from the opioid crisis. The SOAR Network will guide mental health best practices to grow and strengthen this important workforce in Ohio.

The budget includes a Medicaid provider rate package to encourage the **development of a more robust professional health care workforce** to support Ohio's most vulnerable residents. Through this budget, the Ohio Department of Medicaid, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Aging and Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, will commit to increase provider rates to ensure workforce stability and greater access to care for Medicaid recipients.

Pediatric behavioral health services will expand in Ohio with \$50 million to support workforce development, improve infrastructure to increase access to these services (including OhioRISE Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities), and improve integration of behavioral health and primary care services for children receiving these services.

The budget includes \$19 million for contemporary practice needs and essential **trainings for behavioral health professionals**. Through Centers of Excellence and the Ohio Coalition Mentoring Network, initiatives provide educational and training opportunities around evidence-based best practices, data sharing, and learning collaboratives. This funding also supports peer-run recovery centers providing supportive places for Ohioans in recovery.



Information Technology and Cybersecurity

The DeWine-Husted budget supports Ohio's continued position as a leader in technology security and development. The Unmanned Aerial Systems Center leads the nation in **drone aircraft testing and development**, and the addition of \$11 million over the biennium will continue the research partnership with the U.S. Air Force and commercialize drone flights in Ohio.

The Ohio Adjutant General's **Ohio Cyber Reserve** is bolstered in this budget through a nearly 50% funding increase to \$1.1 million per year to enhance training equipment for missions, vulnerability assessments, and penetration tests that support the reserve's mission of protecting state, county, and local government entities, critical infrastructure (including elections systems), businesses, and citizens from cyberattacks.

This budget also establishes the **Ohio Digital Academy**, supported with \$6.6 million in fiscal year 2024 to attract talent for State of Ohio Information Technology (IT) and cybersecurity positions. The program will offer reimbursement incentives to recent college graduates or those pursuing continuing education or specialized certifications in IT-specific areas and develop a pipeline of talent to enhance the state's cyberworkforce to better protect state assets and technology investments.

This summary was compiled by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management. More information is available at obm.ohio.gov.