

THE OHIO COUNCIL'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

BELIEVE, LEAD, REPEAT



CEO MESSAGE

We are operating in a time defined by relentless change and pervasive uncertainty. The ground is shifting – geopolitically, financially, and operationally – and we must grow increasingly comfortable with discomfort. As Simon Sinek reminds us in *The Infinite Game*, the objective isn't to win or lose, but to stay in the game. To lead with purpose, resilience, and vision.

In this moment, it's more important than ever to believe in our mission: helping people achieve health, wellness, and recovery through a fully funded, accessible, and high-quality community behavioral health system. This is not just a vision, it is our call to action.

We must lead with intention and integrity by redesigning systems to meet people where they are, cultivating a diverse and skilled workforce, and forming partnerships that add value, drive outcomes, and transform lives. Progress demands persistence, innovation, and an unwavering belief in what's possible.

And then we do it again. We repeat. We stay focused. Because in the face of evolving challenges, from workforce shortages and financial pressures to the opportunities and disruptions of AI and new technologies, we must continue to believe in our mission and lead with clarity, courage, and collaboration.

Community behavioral health organizations' greatest strengths have always been our ability to engage, adapt, and reimagine what care looks like. Those remain our superpowers. The Ohio Council is committed to helping you harness them by advocating for smart public policy, delivering the insights you need to lead, and standing with you as we all chart the path forward.

The best way to shape the future is to build it together. Let's stay in the game, lead with vision, and continue our shared work to create a behavioral health system that delivers for all Ohioans.

OC-PAC: Lead with Purpose

OC-PAC is The Ohio Council's Political Action Committee—a critical tool that strengthens our voice with policymakers who support behavioral health. Funded through personal contributions from individuals affiliated with member organizations, OC-PAC helps us build the relationships needed to advance our priorities. These contributions empower us to have a meaningful voice in the political process—one that protects our interests, promotes our priorities, and influences outcomes that shape our system.

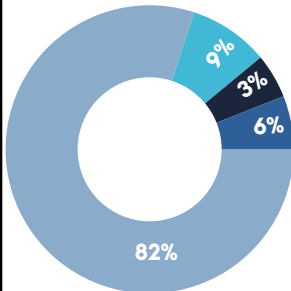
The Board of Trustees believes leadership today requires political engagement. Your personal support makes a difference—and sends a clear message that our work matters.

Lead with Purpose. Contribute to OC-PAC today:

<https://givebutter.com/ohiocouncil25>

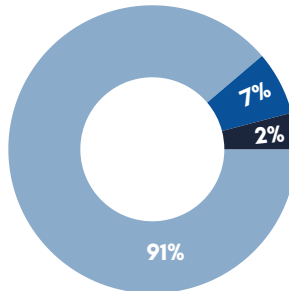


2025 Revenue



- Membership Dues
- Conferences/Trainings
- Grants/Other Income
- Products/Services

2025 Expenses



- Advocacy/Member Support
- Conferences/Trainings
- Products/Services

2025 POLICY & ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Protected Medicaid provider rates and coverage policies in the state and federal budget processes.
- Led in statewide advocacy efforts to ensure continuation of Medicaid expansion, recognizing its role in promoting health, economic stability, and workforce participation.
- Expanded advocacy strategies by framing the value of prevention and behavioral health services as essential for economic vitality and workforce participation.
- Sustained advocacy to improve Medicaid provider enrollment, credentialing, and resolve claims payment issues.
- Collaborated with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, OARP and other stakeholders to develop and successfully pass legislation (SB 138) that modernizes Board-Provider contracting focused on the community plan and access to care.
- Advanced insurance parity efforts in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Insurance, Ohio Parity Coalition, insurance plans, and business groups to include coverage for MRSS in the state employee health insurance benefit and to establish an annual behavioral health wellness visit.
- Developed an improving engagement and access guide in collaboration with members, OhioMHAS, Ohio Department of Medicaid, and the National Council to support innovation and clinical practice change.
- Advocated for policies and investment to support 9-8-8, the crisis continuum, and integrated, whole person care through the CCBHC model.
- Demonstrated value and growth of school-based behavioral health services highlighting impacts for students, families, and educators experience – including experiences with telehealth services.
- Partnered to support and strengthen OhioRISE as a system of care model, develop behavioral health service capacity, and improve cross system relationships to meet the needs of multi-system engaged youth and families.
- Supported substance use services through the 1115 SUD Waiver, advancing regulatory reforms that promote opioid use disorder treatment, and advocacy for state and federal funding.
- Promoted high quality, nationally accredited recovery housing, working with Ohio Recovery Housing and OhioMHAS to implement new registration and accreditation requirements and passed legislation that authorizes sanctions for non-compliant housing operators and providers.
- Supported education and advocacy to expand peer recovery services and improve the credentialing process.
- Promoted policy change to establish a mental health entry level credential with a defined career pathway.
- Partnered with Ohio's Centers of Excellence and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to promote and expand practice-based learning opportunities and workforce development.
- Accomplished membership growth through market visibility of our impactful policy advocacy, high value member services, and incomparable technical assistance support.

2026 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- Sustain federal and state advocacy to protect behavioral health funding and Medicaid expansion, coverage of services, and provider rates for community behavioral health organizations.
- Strengthen the behavioral health workforce through implementation of the qualified behavioral health credentials and investments in traditional and non-traditional career development opportunities.
- Expand enforcement of insurance parity to ensure equitable coverage for mental health and substance use disorder services.
- Collaborate with system partners to sustain and expand critical services including 988, the crisis continuum, integrated whole-person care, prevention, school-based services, and recovery supports – including access to healthy and safe housing options, meaningful employment opportunities, and peer recovery services.
- Accelerate policy and practice reforms to make patient engagement a priority, access easier, and lessen practitioner burnout.
- Leverage data and technology innovation to improve care, care coordination, health outcomes, and streamline operations.
- Develop training and technical assistance opportunities for regulatory compliance, contract negotiation, revenue cycle management, and value-based reimbursement.
- Cultivate a culture of member engagement and leadership, including increased personal contributions to OC-PAC to support our advocacy efforts.

