



THE OHIO COUNCIL'S 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

THE POWER OF PURPOSE

CEO MESSAGE

We continue to live in a time of relentless change and persistent uncertainty. The landscape is shifting politically, financially, technologically, and operationally requiring leaders who can remain focused, adaptable, and grounded in purpose. As Ohio prepares for a new administration following the midterm election, our responsibility is not to predict every change, but to be prepared, engaged, and ready to help shape policies that strengthen the behavioral healthcare system and the communities we serve, while contributing to Ohio's economic growth.

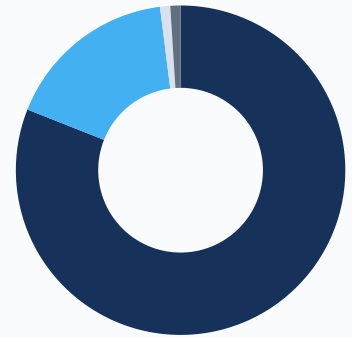
Through it all, we remain grounded in our mission: ensuring every Ohioan has access to high-quality, accessible, and sustainable community behavioral healthcare that supports health, wellness, and recovery. That mission provides the foundation for every decision we make and every challenge we face. Meeting this moment requires intentional leadership. We must continue investing in our workforce, embracing innovation, strengthening our organizations, and building partnerships that improve outcomes and create lasting value.

Just as importantly, we must strengthen collaboration across our membership and with our partners in government, managed care, hospitals, healthcare, human services, and business. No single organization can address today's challenges alone, but together our collective expertise, shared experiences, and unified voice make us stronger and better positioned to navigate change and shape the future.

The challenges before us are significant, but so are the strengths of Ohio's community behavioral health system. Our members have consistently demonstrated resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to those they serve. The Ohio Council remains committed to advocating for sound public policy, providing timely information and practical resources, convening leaders to solve shared challenges, and ensuring your voice is heard as Ohio enters its next chapter.

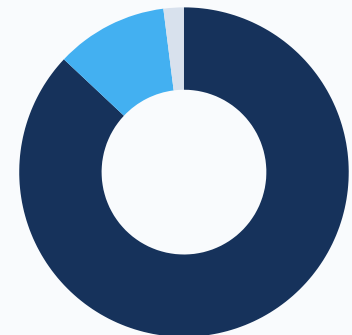
The future will be built through collaboration, persistence, and a shared commitment to improving the lives of Ohioans. Together, we will continue building a stronger behavioral health system that meets today's challenges while preparing for tomorrow's opportunities.

2026 REVENUE



- 81% - Membership Dues
- 17% - Conferences
- 1% - Products / Services
- 1% - Other

2026 EXPENSES



- 87% - Advocacy & Member Support
- 11% - Education
- 2% - Products / Services

OC-PAC – Lead with Purpose

OC-PAC is The Ohio Council's Political Action Committee: 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/ohiocouncil26>



2026 POLICY & ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prevented the implementation of overly restrictive Medicaid managed care plan utilization management practices by working with Ohio Medicaid to establish a more targeted, data-informed response to federal and state fraud, waste, and abuse concerns.
- Provided resources and technical assistance to build member's organizational capacity to prepare, adapt, and manage new utilization management requirements.
- Sustained advocacy to address continuing Medicaid provider enrollment, credentialing, and claims payment issues.
- Provided leadership to navigate an increasingly complex fraud, waste, and abuse policy environment through strategic guidance, technical assistance, and strong advocacy for targeted remedies, balanced enforcement, and workable regulatory solutions.
- 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.
- Advocated for policies and investment to support 9-8-8, the crisis continuum, and integrated, whole person care.
- 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.
- 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.
- Advanced legislation to establish a mental health entry level credential with a defined career pathway and transition peer recovery support credentials to a professional licensure board through the Ohio House without opposition.
- Partnered with Ohio's Centers of Excellence and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to promote and expand practice-based learning opportunities and workforce development.
- Developed advocacy resources and strategies to promote the value of prevention and behavioral health services as essential for economic vitality and workforce participation.
- Advocated for behavioral health policies through participation in National Council's Hill Day, monitored over 50 pieces of legislation and provided testimony in various Ohio House and Senate committees.
- Expanded OC-PAC contributions and advocacy that enabled relationship building at 26 events, most with multiple state elected officials, this year to date.
- Added 22 new member organizations as a result of our impactful advocacy, exceptional member engagement, and trusted policy and operational expertise.

2027 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- Build relationships with the new administration and elected officials to promote the value of behavioral health in supporting families, communities, and businesses in achieving economic success.
- Sustain federal and state advocacy to navigate Medicaid policy changes under HR 1
- Protect behavioral health funding including: Medicaid expansion, OhioRISE, coverage of services, and provider rates for community behavioral health services.
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burden within managed care processes to allow providers to spend more time serving patients and less time doing paperwork.
- Strengthen the behavioral health workforce through implementation of the qualified behavioral health credentials and peer recovery supporter credentials and develop investments in traditional and non-traditional career development opportunities.
- Explore opportunities to advance adoption of Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC).
- 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.
- Leverage technology and innovation to improve patient care, strengthen care coordination, enhance outcomes, and reduce unnecessary administrative burden
- Develop training and technical assistance opportunities for regulatory compliance, contract negotiation, revenue cycle management, and value-based reimbursement.
- Expand member engagement and leadership in local and state advocacy including increased personal contributions to OC-PAC.