

HPIO hosts second Health Policy Summit

HPIO hosted its second-annual statewide Ohio Health Policy Summit on Oct. 9 in Columbus.

The theme of this year's Summit was "Prioritizing what works: A focus on policies with the greatest return on investment." The event highlighted and promoted policies that offer significant return on investment, with a focus on evidence-based strategies that improve outcomes for children, working-age adults and older adults.

The goal of the Summit is to equip policymakers and stakeholders with the tools and insights needed to prioritize impactful solutions in a rapidly changing political and economic environment.

The event opened with a keynote address from Dr. Michael Gillette, founder of Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc. Dr. Gillette's presentation focused on "An ethical framework for decision-making in a time of scarce resources."

Another plenary session included Adam Searing from the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families and Jennifer Tolbert from KFF discussing the implications of the HR 1 federal spending bill on health policy in Ohio.



HPIO Senior Policy Analyst Jacob Santiago presents during a breakout session titled "Assessment to Action: Policy Innovations to Support Older Ohioans." Also participating in the session were Ann Conn, President and CEO of the McGregor Foundation (far left) and Julia Wiedemann, Planning and Operations Manager at the Ohio Department of Aging.

The day concluded with a fireside chat between Jill Miller, President and CEO of Bethesda Inc. and the bi3 Fund and Dr. Meredith Smith, Executive Director of Cradle Cincinnati, discussing their book "Infant Mortality and Other Wicked Problems" and how lessons learned from Cincinnati's efforts to reduce infant mortality can be applied to other community challenges.

Attendees participated in breakout sessions and workshops featuring leaders from throughout the state providing practical examples of successful work in their communities.

The Summit was made possible by the generous financial support of HPIO's **2025 educational event series sponsors** and HPIO's **core funders**.



Below, HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee and keynote speaker Dr. Michael Gillette, Founder, Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc. Dr. Gillette's presentation focused on "An ethical framework for decision-making in a time of scarce resources."



Watch full videos of the plenary sessions

Through the generous support of the Harmony Project, HPIO was able to record the three plenary sessions. The full videos are posted on the Summit event page, as are presentation slides, poster-session presentations, photos from the event and other information:

<https://bit.ly/4opywCn>



HPIO series explores healthcare affordability challenges in Ohio

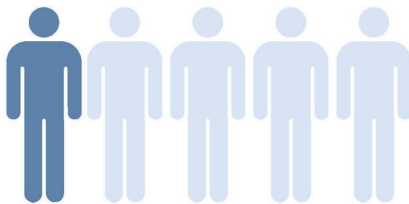
HPIO has developed [a series of publications](#) to explore healthcare affordability challenges facing Ohioans.

The healthcare access and affordability series includes data and analysis about the current challenges facing working Ohioans and examines how recent policy changes, such as the federal reconciliation bill ([HR 1](#)) and the state budget bill ([HB 96](#)) will impact access to care and affordability in Ohio.

For many Ohioans, the cost of basic necessities — such as housing, childcare, food, transportation and health care — is outpacing their income. The median household income in Ohio is \$67,769, lagging below the national median of \$77,719. Simultaneously, the cost of necessities continues to rise. Total healthcare spending rose 7.5% in 2023 alone, putting an increasing burden on Ohio families.

Healthcare expenses do not just constrain the budgets of Ohio

More than **1 in 5** (21%)
Ohioans had trouble paying
off medical bills in 2023



Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, 2023

families. When individuals must choose between health care and other living expenses, it can have significant long-term financial and health consequences.

Recent state and federal policy changes are likely to be consequential for health care affordability in Ohio, especially among people enrolled in Medicaid and the federal health insurance marketplace.

Thank you to our core funders

These funders are advancing HPIO's mission by providing general operating support:

- The bi3 Fund
- Bruening Foundation
- CareSource Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The Columbus Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- The Harmony Project
- HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
- Interact for Health
- Mt. Sinai Health Foundation
- Nord Family Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- Ohio State Bar Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton

A list of HPIO project-specific funders is available at: www.hpio.net/about-us/funders

Briefs in HPIO'S Affordability series

- **Fact sheet:** Major federal and Ohio healthcare access and affordability policy changes
- **Data brief:** Healthcare affordability challenges for working Ohioans
- **Data snapshot:** Access to care for immigrants in Ohio
- **Policy explainer:** Medicaid work requirements
- Other resources coming soon

Work continues on HPIO's next Health Value Dashboard

HPIO continues to work on its 2026 Health Value Dashboard, which is expected to be released in the spring.

The Dashboard, published six times since 2014, puts data in context by ranking Ohio against all states and D.C.

Work on the next edition began with a reexamination of the Dashboard's

methodology. HPIO hosted a series of workgroups to engage Ohio-based experts in healthcare, business, public health, education, employment, and community and economic development to help tailor and revise Dashboard metrics.

HPIO has also engaged its Equity Advisory Group in examining ways to further enhance the equity profiles in the Dashboard.

Work with us

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