Working Together, We've Accomplished A lot!!

The Strickland Administration is working to improve the lives of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens through strategic investments in job creation, education, health care, Ohio's food banks and safety-net programs that work.

Tax Relief

- Created Homestead Exemption for seniors and permanently disabled Ohioans to exempt $25,000 of home value from property taxation. Resulted in an average savings to homeowners of $400 year.

Expanded Healthcare Coverage Options

- More than 109,000 Ohioans have access to affordable private health insurance coverage from now through 2012 as part of insurance market reforms that will provide access, while lowering taxes and improving transparency in terms of insurance rates.

Persons with Disabilities

- Established a Medicaid Buy-in program for people with disabilities to gain access to healthcare, even when they work outside the home. Since its inception in April, 2008, the program has proven highly successful, serving nearly 4,600 working Ohioans with disabilities.

Seniors and Others Needing Long-Term Care Services and Supports

- Established a unified-long term care budget within the Ohio Department of Aging and enrolled more than 6,600 Ohioans in home- and community-based services since the beginning of the administration.
- Eliminated the waiting lists for home and community-based services including PASSPORT, Assisted Living, Choices and PACE, and implemented other changes to allow thousands of Ohioans with disabilities to transition from nursing homes to home and community-based care.

Children

- Ohio joined the national Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge to enroll the 77,000 uninsured Ohio children who are eligible for Medicaid under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), but not enrolled. Under SCHIP, Ohio currently covers children with a family income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Implemented the Medicaid in the Schools. Over 500 school districts and community schools have enrolled. Almost 300 schools are submitting and receiving Medicaid reimbursement for services delivered to over 26,000 children.

Basic Needs

- Ohio now invests $12 million a year in the state's foodbank network, which is an increase of $3.5 million a year.

Helping People and Communities Help Themselves

- Through the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI), $7 million is invested each year to fight poverty through several competitive grant programs.
- Strickland launched *Save the Dream: Ohio Foreclosure Prevention Effort* aimed at helping Ohioans take action to save the dream of homeownership. As of June 30, 2009, more than 60,000 Ohioans have received housing counseling and/or legal assistance through the Save the Dream program.

Common Sense Business Practices

- Medicaid recipients are now able to renew by telephone (and the signature requirement at renewal has been eliminated).
- Telephone interviews are now optional for recertify food assistance benefits and benefits are issued on a debit card.

Investing in Ohio's Future

- The Center for Early Childhood Development within the Ohio Department of Education, will provide a new administrative structure for early childhood programs in Ohio. Statutory authority for the Center's creation was included in House Bill 1, which was passed in July 2009. Planning for the Center is currently underway with a goal of beginning implementation by October 2010.

Job Creation and Work Supports

- Earlier this year JFS obtained $10 million from the Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council ("Special Administrative Funds") for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families subsidized employment programs. Forty-four counties are participating and JFS is exploring how to expand the options for using these funds to create more subsidized employment opportunities. If all of the $10 million is spent by September 30, 2010, the state may be eligible for up to $8 million in reimbursement from TANF Stimulus Funds.

For more information and examples of how the Strickland Administration is working to improve the lives of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens, please visit the Governor's website http://www.governor.ohio.gov/