

Building Resilient Ohioans: Prevention Services

By identifying risk factors early, we can address behavioral health concerns before they escalate into crises that lead to costly hospitalization, incarceration or long-term care. We provide oversight, technical assistance, funding and outcomes monitoring for evidence-based prevention programming in communities across the state.

2026 – 2027 Budget Priorities

1. **Suicide Prevention Plan for Ohio:** Enhance behavioral health services, increase awareness and education about behavioral health and suicide, and provide resources for those in crisis.
2. **Ohio's Resiliency-Focused Prevention Curriculum:** In partnership with the Department of Education and Workforce, identify evidenced-based practices to build core resiliency skills among students in grades K-12 — serving 350,000 students in FY26 and doubling that in FY27.
3. **Youth-Led Prevention & Certified Youth Peers:** Support peer-related programming and expand youth-led initiatives across Ohio to develop catalysts for positive change within their communities.
4. **First Episode Psychosis:** Develop a statewide network of Coordinated Specialty Care providers to ensure rapid access to care for individuals experiencing the first onset of psychosis.
5. **Problem Gambling & Casino Addiction Programming:** Support prevention, screening, treatment and recovery services for all Ohioans and for those experiencing gambling disorders and co-occurring substance use or mental health disorders.
6. **SOAR:** Continue to lead the nation in behavioral health research and innovation through this landmark study, which will inform new strategies for prevention, recovery and resilience.

Why it Matters

Investing in prevention:

- Strengthens **resilience and coping skills** needed to manage stress and adversity.
- Enhances **social connections**, such as strong family bonds and community connections.
- Improves **learning, work readiness, and leadership**.
- Addresses **trauma and adverse childhood experiences**.
- Ensures **early intervention for behavioral health symptoms** for Ohioans of all ages.

By the Numbers

- An investment of **\$10 per person** per year in community-based prevention programs could save the United States **over \$16 billion** annually within five years, translating to a **return of \$5.60 for every dollar** invested.¹

¹ Trust for America's Health, The Value of Prevention. [Investing in Prevention](#) (2017)