



# Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

ANNUAL REPORT | JULY 2018







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## Executive Statement

### DEAR FRIENDS:

Thank you for your support of UHCAN Ohio.

For more than two decades, UHCAN Ohio has been the only statewide advocacy organization in Ohio focused exclusively on health care access and reform. This role has created a responsibility for UHCAN Ohio, to work with, and provide leadership and guidance to, partners across the state so that together we all pursue collaborative strategies that reform and expand access to health care for all Ohioans.

Ohio is a net exporter of health care. People come from around the world to receive medical in Ohio, because we have an international reputation for some of the finest health centers anywhere. Despite this wealth of health care options, there are still people across Ohio who are struggling to get the health care they need. There are many people in Ohio facing crisis because they are: without insurance so they cannot see a doctor or dentist; who can't afford their prescriptions and go without critical medications; living in rural and urban communities that are health care deserts; and, who are afraid of the cost if a doctor finds a problem so they avoid getting care.



The progress enabled by the ACA and Medicaid Expansion is fragile and under assault at both the state and national levels. We all must work everyday to defend the progress we have already accomplished and advocate for further reforms and improvements.

Financially, this is a David and Goliath battle, so I hope you will join UHCAN Ohio to fight to protect everyone's health care and help people in need get the care they need. Your financial contributions and passion for health care justice are critical elements in our ability to advocate for expanded access and more responsive health care for every person in Ohio.

**Eugene R. King, JD**

Chair, UHCAN Ohio Board of Directors

**Health care is critical to everyone.** Without access to quality affordable health care people avoid the doctor or dentist, don't take their needed medication, delay tests and screenings, and have little chance to get preventive care. Quality health care gives us healthy families and healthy communities.

UHCAN Ohio's friends understand that affordable, quality health care is necessary to maintaining people's health. However, there are pharmaceutical manufacturers that pursue only profit, raising prices and causing patients to forgo medication. There are politicians driven by dogma instead of data, who insist that there be more barriers on those in poverty before they can get health care. There are decision makers, who don't believe everyone should have health care coverage. There are dental lobbying groups that are opposed to creating safe, cost effective mid-level providers who would help address the tragic and pervasive gaps in oral health access.

UHCAN Ohio stands with people who know that everyone deserves health care. People have stood up and loudly told politicians that health care is important to them and their communities. We have helped people raise their voices – rallying to save Medicaid, calling and protesting to save the ACA, writing to express their desire for an equitable health care system, lobbying the General Assembly to create dental therapists and other statutory changes that improve care for everyone. I have been proud to work with so many who have fought to make the health care system work for everyone. There are challenges ahead and it will be years before we can address the great inequity in health care that exists in Ohio; however, the voice of the people gets stronger each day.

**Steve Wagner, MPH, JD**  
Executive Director



# UHCAN Ohio's mission is to achieve high quality, accessible, affordable health care for all Ohioans.

Patients, consumers and concerned Ohioans must play a central role in health care at all levels from individual encounters with providers to the design of health systems and the creation of health policy.

American health care financing and delivery must be simplified because much of the current unnecessary complexity benefits health sector corporations and providers at the expense of individual patients and the community.

Health care must be reformed in ways that move towards health care justice, both social justice and economic justice.

Health care is both an individual good, whose costs and benefits affect the individuals receiving care, and a public good, whose costs and benefits have public impacts.







## How We Work

UHCAN Ohio has adopted Community Catalyst’s approach to advocacy. UHCAN Ohio builds the voice of consumers to shape health care policies and develop solutions to meet Ohioans’ needs by informing and uniting consumers and their allies to influence decision makers. Each of the following six capacities is essential to successfully advocate for policy change. UHCAN Ohio builds each of its projects based on these six capacities. While we are able to operationalize all of these capacities at some level, UHCAN Ohio’s role when working with partners generally focuses on campaign development, coalition and stakeholder alliances, and grassroots organizing.

“ My daughter could not fulfill any work or community activity requirement due to a disabling medical condition she has. However, I am concerned that since she does not have the legal protection of a disability determination from social security that she will be deemed “able bodied” when she is not. A mandatory work requirement will be a huge burden for her as she will have to prove that she should be exempt due to her illness.”

– PAM

# Community Catalyst System of Advocacy



## Six Capacities For Effective Advocacy

### COALITION AND STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCES

Build, expand and maintain strong coalitions and networks that represent a broad range of consumer interests, and bring different assets, missions, perspectives, constituencies, relationships and strategies to work collaboratively toward a common goal.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Communicate the right message to the right audience to build timely public and political support for an issue or position and to counter opposition.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Raise and appropriately allocate dedicated and unrestricted funds in support of an advocacy campaign and to sustain advocacy work over time.

### GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

Engage community members who are affected by public policy decisions or systemic problems to put a human face on an issue and to build leadership at the local level. Grassroots organizing provides important input and feedback on policy approaches and campaign ideas.

### POLICY ANALYSIS & ADVOCACY

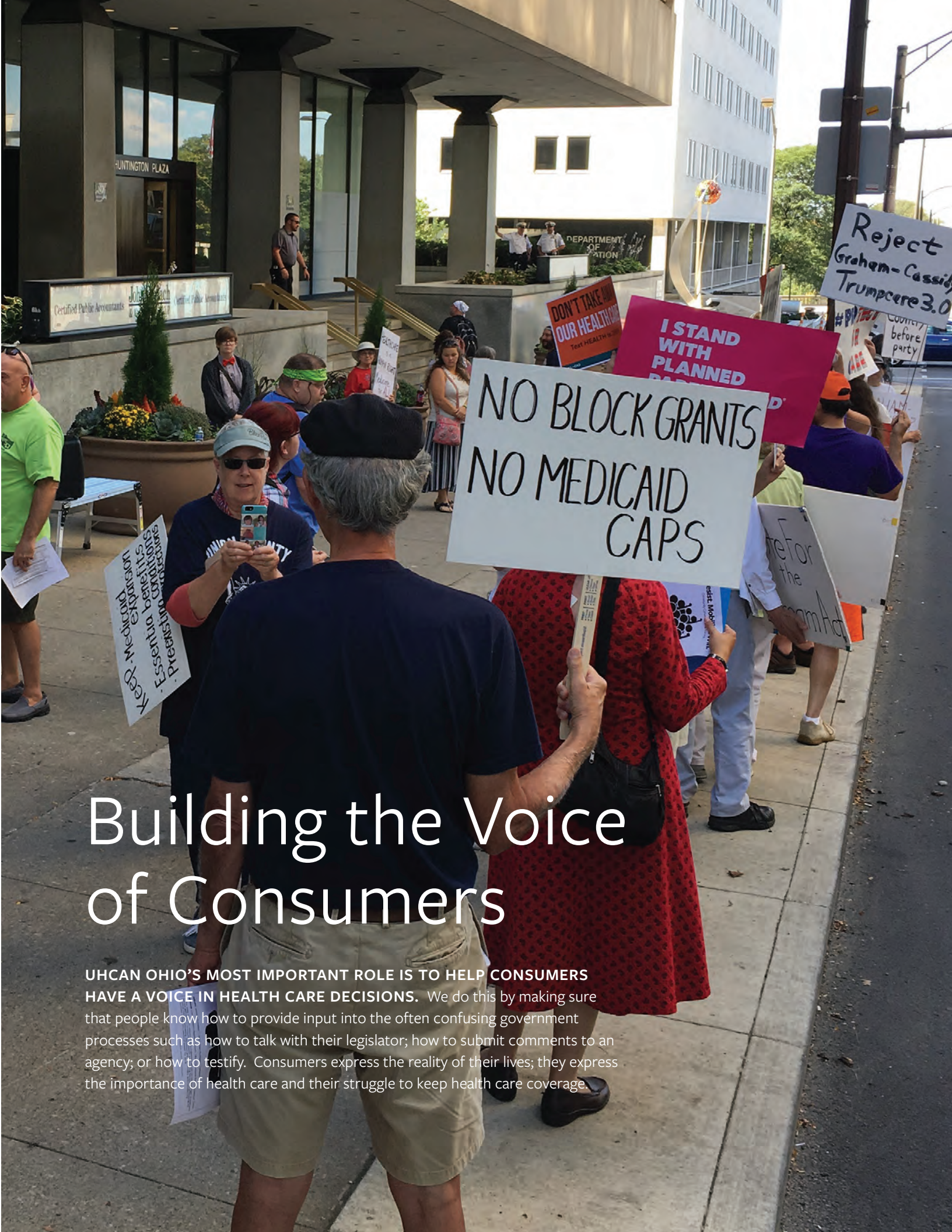
Analyze complex legal and policy issues, conduct research and develop sound policy solutions. Strong policy analysis provides organizations with the data and context they need to develop winnable policy campaigns, identify key constituencies, and engage allies in the work.

### CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT

The ability to plan and coordinate advocacy campaigns is essential to shape policy decisions and outcomes. Campaign development brings together all the capacities and orchestrates the involvement of partners and allies to take advantage of opportunities to advance a consumer health agenda.

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# Building the Voice of Consumers

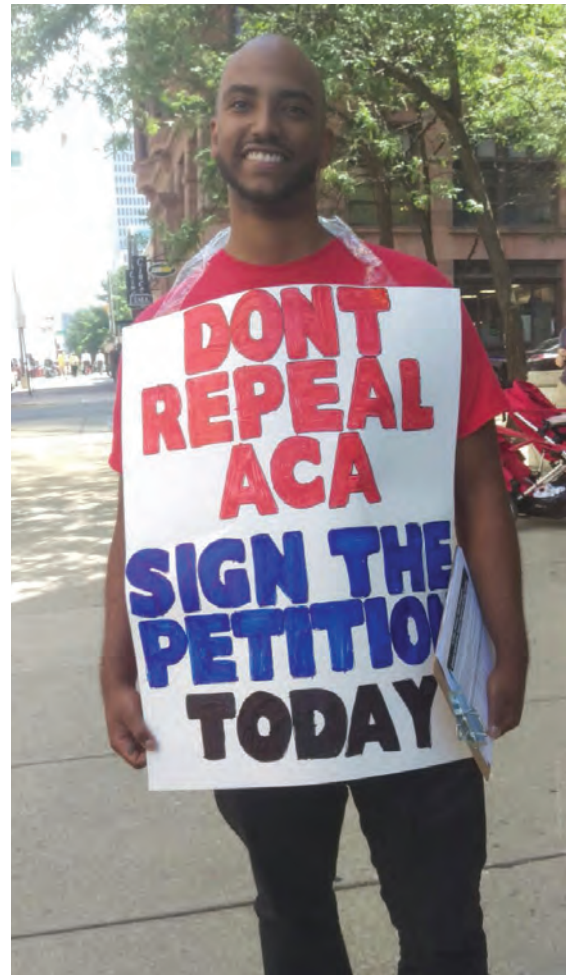
**UHCAN OHIO'S MOST IMPORTANT ROLE IS TO HELP CONSUMERS HAVE A VOICE IN HEALTH CARE DECISIONS.** We do this by making sure that people know how to provide input into the often confusing government processes such as how to talk with their legislator; how to submit comments to an agency; or how to testify. Consumers express the reality of their lives; they express the importance of health care and their struggle to keep health care coverage.



# Each person's experience and voice is important.

UHCAN Ohio brings these voices together to assure that consumers have a voice that will be heard by decision makers. This includes promoting consumers to workgroups and commissions facilitated by agencies or the legislature. Sometimes UHCAN Ohio has to carry the voice of consumers to decision makers. We do this through our testimony, comments, calls and conversations with decision makers. We have or are participating on workgroups that include: Medicaid Long term Support Services; Electronic Visit Verification; MyCare Ohio Implementation Team; State Health Assessment; State Health Implementation Plan; and Primary Care Medical Home.

UHCAN Ohio works within coalitions to create a greater force behind our initiatives. In Cleveland and Cincinnati, we run local coalitions of the Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage. These coalitions bring together individuals and organizations invested in advocating for consumers access to health care. UHCAN Ohio actively participates in the Ohio Statewide Health Disparities Collaborative, Children in the Vanguard, Community Health Coalition and Advocates for Ohio's Futures. UHCAN Ohio facilitates Protect Our Care – Ohio, a coalition that has focused on protecting Medicaid in Ohio and nationally.



“My community has benefited from Medicaid because a healthy community is a happier community. Everyone should have access to medical care, regardless of if they work. There are a growing number of homeless people in my community who would not be able to clear the work requirement because they are literally trying not to die on the streets.”

– JILLIAN

“

I went for five years without health coverage. Obtaining full coverage again has been important to me because I have Rheumatoid Arthritis. Without proper access to the medical community this autoimmune disorder might have completely damaged my joints. I have a good primary provider and I have been able to keep my personal health status on a functional level.”

– DEBORAH





## Campaigns



UHCAN of Ohio is dedicated to promoting the voices of consumers to inform health care decisions and assure access to affordable, quality healthcare for everyone. We have pursued this work for more than twenty years and we need support to continue this mission. Our most recent efforts have focused on: advocating for dental therapists in Ohio; controlling drug costs; improving home independence for people dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare; increasing oral health access; and protection of the ACA and Medicaid. UHCAN Ohio is the only statewide organization with a broad consumer focus on health care advocacy.

Our continued public dialogue and advocacy calls raised awareness of the benefit of the expansion including the impact of Medicaid on the opioid crisis. We believe that our vocal opposition to the cuts to Medicaid, especially the wave of voices supporting expansion prevented wholesale changes to the ACA.



### PROTECTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

As a result of the election in 2016, the major effort of healthcare advocacy shifted from improving the value of health care to defending the substantial access gains that were experienced over the past five years. UHCAN Ohio worked with many of you to protect the Affordable Care Act from the very real threat of repeal. Both the U.S. House's American Health Care Act and the Senate's Better Care Reconciliation Act were efforts by the majority party to dismantle substantial health care gains. Each of these bills would have resulted in tens of millions of people losing health care coverage and would have made coverage more expensive for millions of others.

UHCAN Ohio worked with consumers and partners to let elected leaders know that health care is important to our families and communities. Our message on “no repeal without a better replacement” resonated with the majority of people and placed pressure on Congress.



### PROTECTING MEDICAID

In addition to the federal threats to Medicaid, some members of the Ohio General Assembly sought to take Medicaid coverage from over 700,000 people who struggle with low incomes. As part of the 2017 budget bill, many threats to Medicaid were proposed including a freeze on enrollment for the expansion population. If the Medicaid freeze had passed into Ohio law, some Ohio members of Congress would no longer have opposed the federal repeal efforts; they had opposed the loss of expansion coverage in the federal legislation.

UHCAN Ohio worked as part of the Ohio Medicaid Coalition to rally against the Medicaid freeze. We were able to provide transportation to 100 Clevelanders to come to the Statehouse rally to show their support for Medicaid. Partner organizations contributed greatly to the rally event: encouraging attendance, arranging for transport, posting social media, arranging speakers and providing signs. Well over a 1000 people attended the rally.

“ My son had an abscess tooth, without dental insurance. He had some money, but his friend’s kids had their electric cut off and no food due to lack of money. So, he used his money to help them, instead of his teeth. He let it go, but then ended up in an emergency situation with his face swelling up and having a fever. He went to the doctor, and they put him in an ambulance, and took him to a hospital in Columbus to get it taken care since there were no medical facilities around him that could take care of it. He almost died because of lack of dental care.”



### IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH ACCESS

In Ohio, oral health is the most prevalent unmet health care need for children. For adults, only prescription drugs have a higher unmet need. In Ohio, there are 92 dental health professional shortage areas. UHCAN Ohio believes that a significant strategy for addressing this health care gap is the use of dental therapists. Senate Bill (SB)98 creates the dental therapist as an independent scope of practice and educational path. Senator Peggy Lehner introduced Senate Bill 98 in the 131st and 132nd Session of the Ohio General Assembly. The training of dental therapists in Ohio would follow the Commission on Dental Accreditation standard.

Mid-level dental providers, called dental therapists, have been used by more than 50 countries for almost a century and are now practicing in both rural and urban underserved areas of Minnesota; in tribal communities in Alaska, Oregon and Washington; and will soon be practicing in Maine and Vermont.

This legislation would put dental therapists into the areas of Ohio that need them the most. SB98 requires that dental therapists work in practices with at least 20% of the patients insured by Medicaid or in a dental health professional shortage area.

In the summer of 2017, the work that UHCAN Ohio led to advocate for enactment of SB98 underwent an organizational transition. It changed from a steering committee for UHCAN Ohio to a coalition on which UHCAN Ohio actively participates. The Dental Access Now Coalition is chaired by Dr. Larry Hill, president of the American Association for Community Dental Programs and Ann Naber, RDH, BS. The Ohio Dental Hygiene Association continues to be a formidable partner in the coalition. The coalition creates a broader shared responsibility across the partners. With this increased energy and coordination we hope to see SB98 passed and meaningful impact on oral health access.

## Our Board

The power of the UHCAN Ohio board is not simply in its financial support but its commitment to the issues. Our board members are critically engaged in the efforts to protect Medicaid and the ACA, further oral health access, improve home independence and lower drug costs.



**CHAIR:**  
Eugene King, JD



**VICE CHAIR:**  
Kathleen C. McGarvey, JD



**TREASURER:**  
Robert DeJarnette



**SECRETARY:**  
Katherine Kuck, MA



Melissa Cropper



Kenneth B Frisof, MD



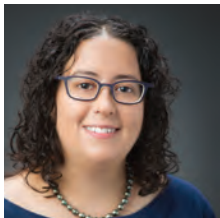
Jane Hash, CNHP



Lawrence Hill, DDS, MPH



Monica Moran



Karen R. Nicosia, MPH



Lorin Ranbom



Susan Rogers



Johnathon Ross, MD, MPH



Pierrette (Petee) Talley

## Foundational Support

UHCAN Ohio depends on the financial support of foundations within Ohio and nationally. These foundations understand that policy change has great impact on the daily lives of people and that advocacy is necessary to see positive policy change.

Community Catalyst  
The George Gund Foundation  
The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

Interact for Health  
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
The Cleveland Foundation

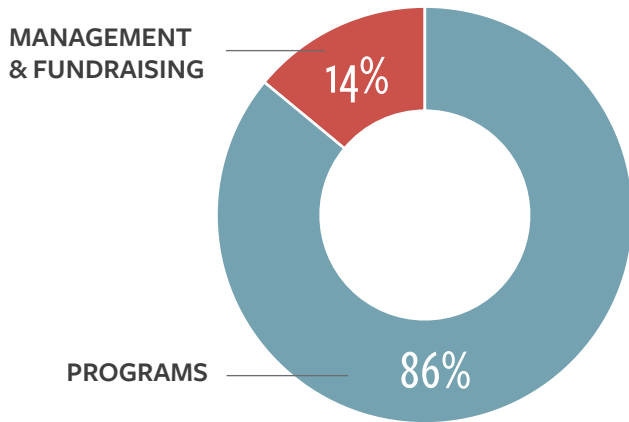


# Financial Standing

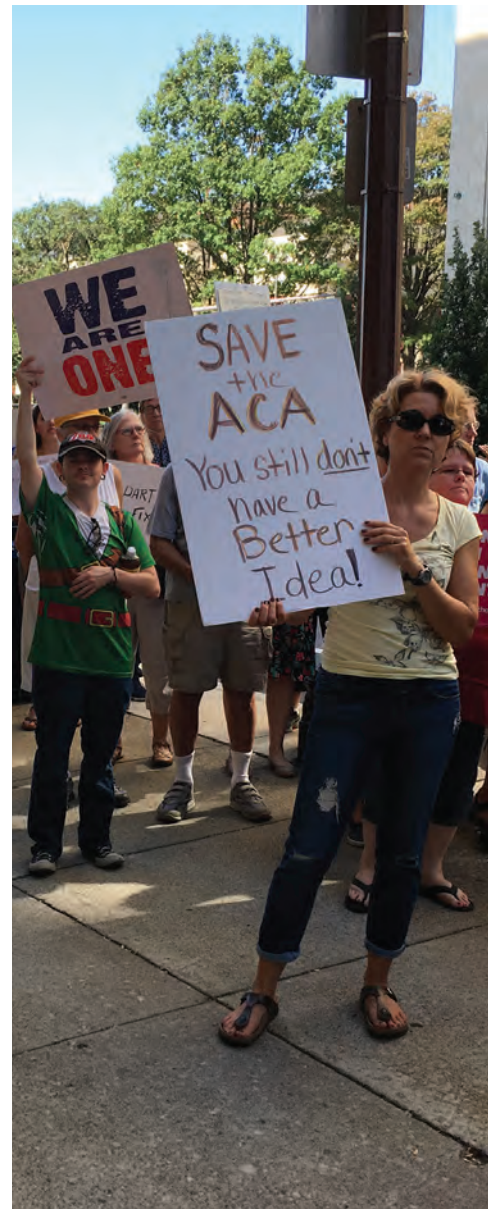
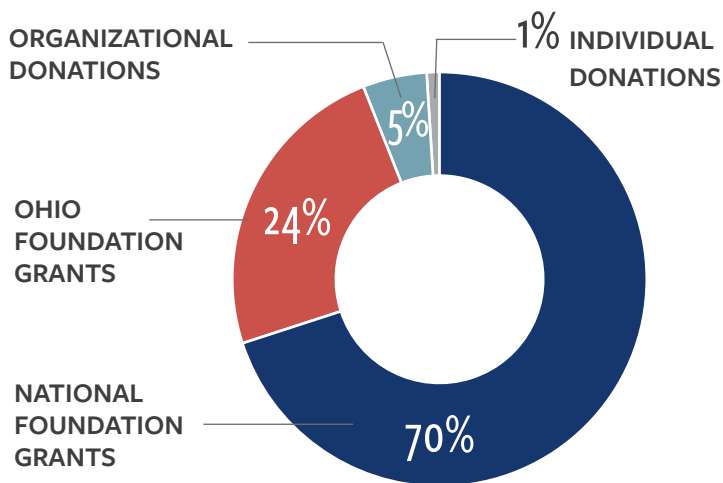
It is critical to UHCAN Ohio that foundational funds and individual donations are spent wisely and with integrity. We operate with a minimal administrative footprint and assure careful accounting of revenue and expenditures. UHCAN Ohio has a regular independent audit. We file our IRS form 990, a statement of our operations; including information on the nonprofit's mission, programs, and finances. We have earned a Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies.



## EXPENSES FY 2017



## REVENUE FY 2017





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