Groundwork OHIO

MALISSA HARRIS

Policy Associate
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As a Policy Associate, Malissa will provide critical assistance and support to Groundwork Ohio's policy team and support the implementation and execution of Groundwork's Family Action Network to elevate the voices of young families with young children.

Malissa has spent her career working in early childhood education at Little Miracles EDC and is dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families. Through her work as an early childhood educator and Assistant Director, Malissa provided vital support in helping families with screenings and referrals. She helped to manage and oversee a 5-star Step Up To Quality program and created a system to help the center maintain its 5-star rating, which included creating a child portfolio system, providing assessments, partnering with Early Start Columbus and the Child Development Council of Franklin County Head Start, and assisting new early childhood educators with the skills to help them be successful in the classroom.

Most recently, Malissa worked as an Americorps VISTA at United Way of Central Ohio. She helped support United Way of Central Ohio's Tax Time Program, which provides free high-quality tax preparation services to families of low- and moderate-incomes. In her role, she supported a small team to find sponsorships, recruit volunteers, partner with other non-profit organizations, research tax credits, and lead the implementation of their first Tax Time Pilot.

Malissa received her undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati in Early Childhood Education and her graduate degree from The Ohio State University in Education Policy. Malissa's interests include ensuring all families have access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education.

In addition to her role at Groundwork Ohio, Malissa is passionate about families being advocates for their own children. She sits on the Child Development Council of Franklin County's Policy Council as co-chair and is also a part of the Ohio Head Start Parent Advocacy Network.