CCAO Webinar – DCY Update

7/25/24

Kara Wente, Director

![Ohio Department of Children & Youth logo]

DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR KIDS.

1/ Programmatic Updates

2/ County Reporting & Best Practices

3/ Next Steps

OHIO DCY PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

The following principles provide a foundation by which we will be successful in achieving our goals as an agency:

Transparency

Will create transparency across programs utilizing cross-program data

Accountability

Will create accountability to ensure children are receiving services when needed with the intended outcomes

Focus & Prioritization

Continue prioritization of children from birth to age 21 both in policy and funding

Maintain Local Structure

Foster collaboration to ensure strong child and family outcomes but local structure remains a local decision

In order to…

Children & Youth

Help more children thrive in safe, healthy environments to reach their first birthday and beyond.

Communities

Ensure **continuity of care** across the spectrum of ages, stages, and services to help children and youth succeed.

Families

Support families with needed resources and supports proactively.

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

QUESTION NOT A CRISIS

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TOOL

Expand the Ages and Stages Questionnaire which provides a resource for parents experiencing concerns with their child to answer a few questions in the comfort of their homes and get any necessary referrals.

EXPAND FRONT DOOR - CENTRAL INTAKE

Created a one stop shop for parents of children birth to five when the have questions or concerns and need a service or support..

EXPANSION OF SERVICES FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS

Through Home Visiting Expansion, Child Care increased eligibility and Early Childhood Education expansion we anticipate serving at least 15,000 new children.

DATA SHARING/REFERRALS

As a result of being under one Department we have been able to better connect children in foster and kinship placements with early childhood education (~1,000 children will receive referrals.)

PARENT AMBASSADORS

Hiring 12 Parent Ambassadors, one in each region to ensure ongoing engagement and a judge free resource.

01 02 03 04 05

Department of Children and Youth

4

CENTRAL INTAKE & ASQ EXPANSION

As of July 1, more Ohio families have the opportunity to utilize Central Intake and the free ASQ Online Service available at http://www.helpmegrow.org for children Birth to age 5.

Accomplishments:

- This developmental screening service offering the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE, previously offered to families with children up to age 3, has expanded in the following ways:
  - o Ohio families with **children up to age 5** can use the ASQ.
  - o Families can receive a reminder when a new, age-appropriate screening is available for their child.
  - o The ASQ is now available in **Spanish, French, and Arabic**.
  - o The Help Me Grow Community Resource Directory has been expanded to serve families with children up to age 5 with community services and resources.
- As of July 1, Help Me Grow Central Intake & Referral has completed **1,425 screenings** through this online service.

Next Steps:

- **Sparkler app:** will provide the ASQ screening tools, connect caregivers with their child's teachers and doctors, track developmental milestones, and offer off-screen, play-based activities that promote learning and development based on ASQ results all at the caregiver's fingertips.

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

Family Connects

What is it:
- Evidence-based model for Universal Home Visiting offered free of charge to all families regardless of income or background.
- Families are offered the opportunity to schedule a visit during their hospital stay and all visits are completed by a registered nurse around 3 weeks after baby's birth.
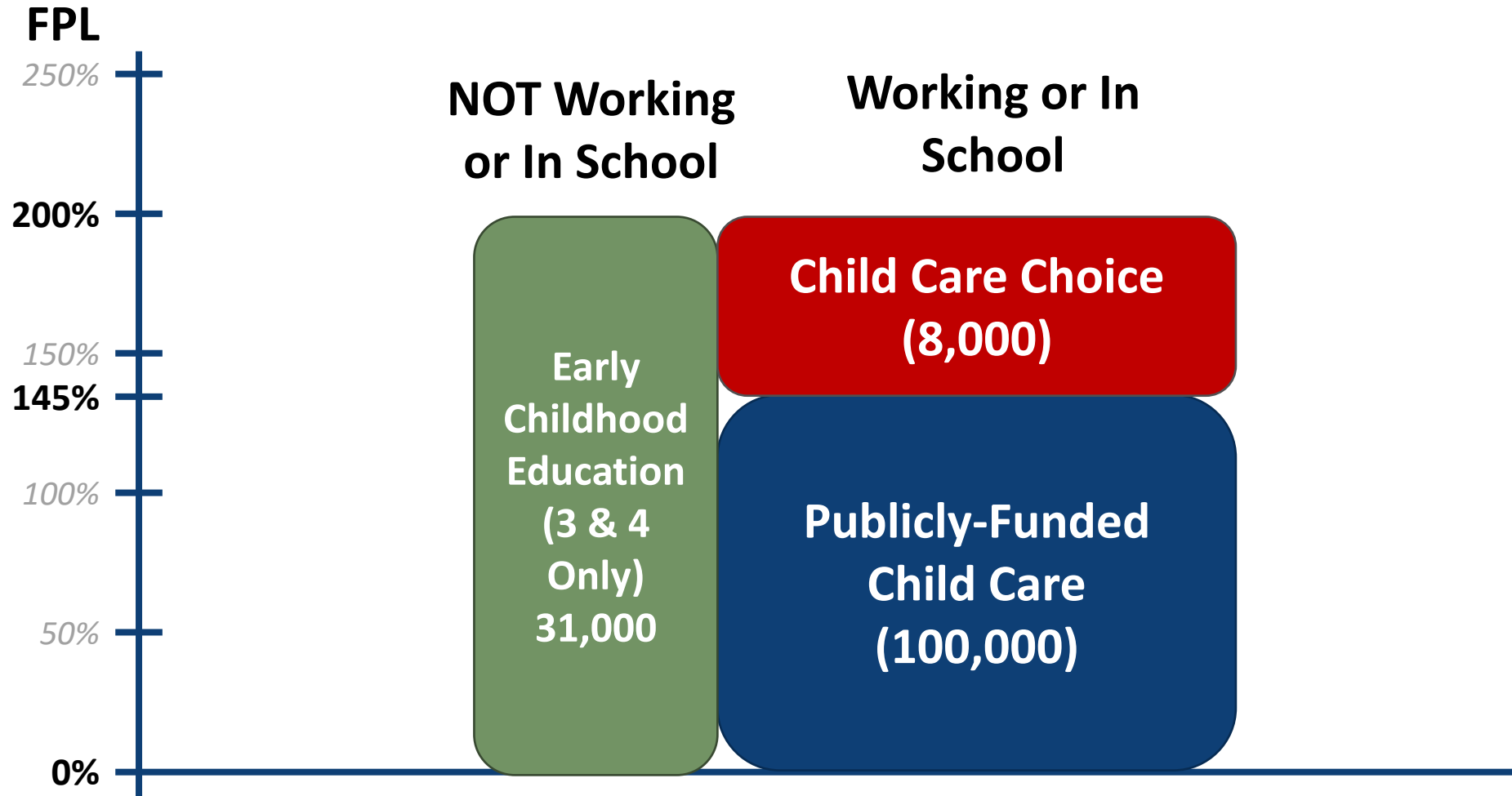
Who does it serve:
- Intended for families who were not connected to Help Me Grow Home Visiting programs during their pregnancies.
- Families who are eligible can continue with an evidence-based home visiting model following the FCI home visit.

Participation:
- **11 counties** will be included in Wave 1: Darke, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Huron, Mahoning, Noble, Shelby and Trumbull.
- Approximately **6,000 families** will be served in the upcoming year.

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

FPL

250%

200%

150%
145%

100%

50%

0%

NOT Working or In School

Working or In School

Early Childhood Education (3 & 4 Only) 31,000

Child Care Choice (8,000)

Publicly-Funded Child Care (100,000)

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

STEP UP TO QUALITY – EFFECTIVE JULY 7, 2024

1. IMPROVE CHILD OUTCOMES

To improve child outcomes, the following is expected of all Programs:

- Implement **curriculum** & corresponding **assessments** aligned with the Science of Reading.
- Use a **screening tool** to assist with children falling behind.
- Provide **community resources** & referrals, when needed (i.e., food pantry, housing, etc.)

While all teachers must complete **10 hours of professional development** annually focused on trauma, age-appropriate milestones, classroom mgmt.

2. REDUCE ADMIN BURDEN

To simplify the program and reduce administrative burden, the following changes were made:

- Transition from 5 to 3 levels
- Eliminating the following paperwork requirements:
  - Wage Structure
  - Professional Development plans
  - Written Transition Plans

3. INCREASE PARENTAL ACCESS

To retain high quality programs and to increase the availability of more early care and education programs, DCY has implemented the following:

- Rate increases in February and July (Expect to put an **additional $150M/year**).
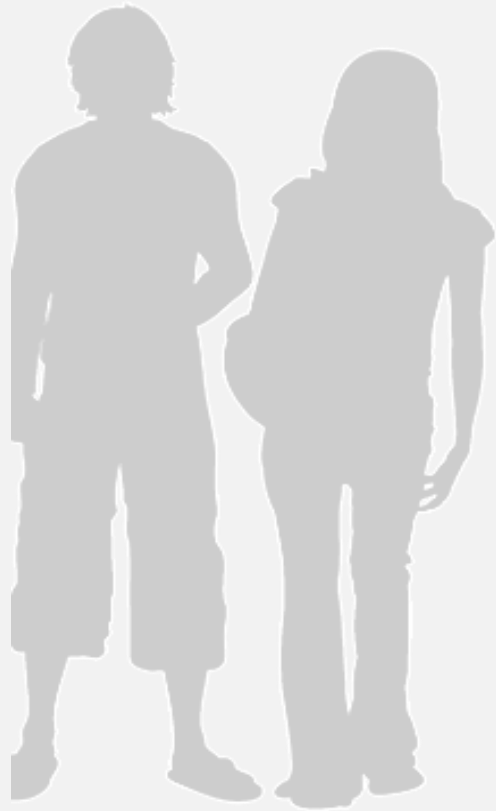- Child Care Choice Voucher Program
- Access Grants

Step Up To Quality
GOLD AWARD
Department of Children & Youth
GOLD LEVEL

Department of Children and Youth

FOSTER CARE YOUTH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

of the **28,617** being served in the Early Childhood Education program, almost **150** new children were introduced to the program as a result of connecting the ECE Program Data and Foster and Kinship Care programs.

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

CHILD CARE CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM – 7/19/2024

1,603
Cases/ Families

2,356
Children

Total Children: 2,356	
380 Infants	**432** Toddlers
719 Preschool	**825** School-age

CHILDREN SERVICES BACKGROUND

LANDSCAPE

CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

Year	2019	2024
# of Children in Custody	15,712	14,665
# of Children in Residential Setting	1,796	1,810
# of Foster Parents	7,609	7,106

ACTION

Data Review (updated 11/7/23)
- 2,112 in Congregate Care
- 273 more than 2 years but less than 5

Telehealth – ($1.9M) January 2024 launch (ECMH & Children Services)

Menu of Support (Residential & Foster Care Capacity Grants)

Child Match– ($625,000)

Substitute Pool – ($250,000)

Northwest Pilot Program ($2.6M)

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

# DATA REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW:

- The process was developed through collaborative conversation of the Children Services Placement Workgroup.

- A master list identified children and youth in congregate care placement 2-5 years, and was merged with the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)'s OhioRISE data = 273 youth.

- The list was broken out by county, and sent to PCSA Directors with 3 additional, key fields of information.

- The State Care Team was assembled (ODM, MHAS, DYS, DODD, DCY).

DATA REVIEW INITIAL FINDINGS:
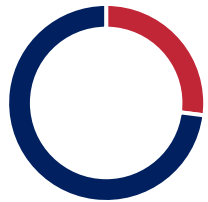
27%
Of children and youth had already **transitioned out of congregate care by the time the data was returned to DCY**.
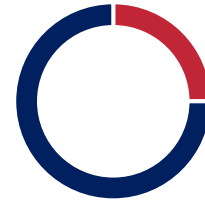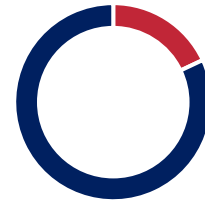
25%
Of youth that remain in congregate care and are in a permanent legal status have clearly identified significant family-finding or permanency finding activities such as WWK, Kinnect to Family, or Youth Centered Permanency Roundtables.
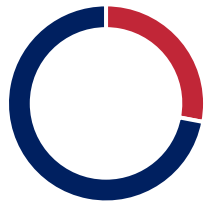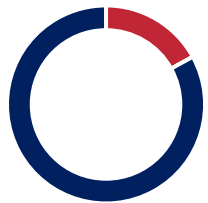
28%
Of the youth that remain in congregate care have an identified discharge to a lower level of care this spring/summer.

18%
Of youth that remain in congregate care have **long-term needs that involve the coordination of the County Boards of DD**.

17%
Of youth that remain in congregate care have **identified complex behavioral needs or sexualized behaviors that are indicated as a barrier to step-down**. For those that have completed treatment, these behaviors continue to be a barrier to step-down.

3 youth
are planning to attend college in the fall.

Department of Children and Youth

13

CHILD MATCH (FORMERLY BULLETIN BOARD)

Goal:

- Develop a system to facilitate streamlined communication and improve inefficiencies in the process for finding placements for youth and children.

Recent Updates:

✓ **Initial Phase:** Deployed May 2nd
  ➢ Community portal to create posts initially utilized by County PCSAs. Recommending Agencies will review through OCAF and express interest in youth.

✓ **Integration Phase:** Bi-directional integration with Ohio SACWIS anticipated August/September 2024
  ➢ Posts will automatically be generated from the Ohio SACWIS Individual Child Care Agreement (ICCA).

✓ **Future Phases:**
  ➢ Agencies will have the ability to link the posts to facilities and homes, not just the agency.
  ➢ Improved data, analytics, and matching algorithms.

TREATMENT FOSTER HOME PILOT

What Is It?

- The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) wants to provide the opportunity to public children service agencies (PCSAs) to participate in a Treatment Foster Home Pilot Program.

- This program is focused on **recruiting and supporting** treatment foster homes willing to support higher acuity children with **additional one-on-one support, on-call 24/7 casework and counseling for crisis response, training, and marketing.**

Results From the Northwest TFC Partnership

- **8** new treatment foster homes have been recruited and licensed since 2022.
- This partnership is estimated to have saved more than **$580,000** in one year of congregate placement per diem costs.

TREATMENT FOSTER HOME PILOT
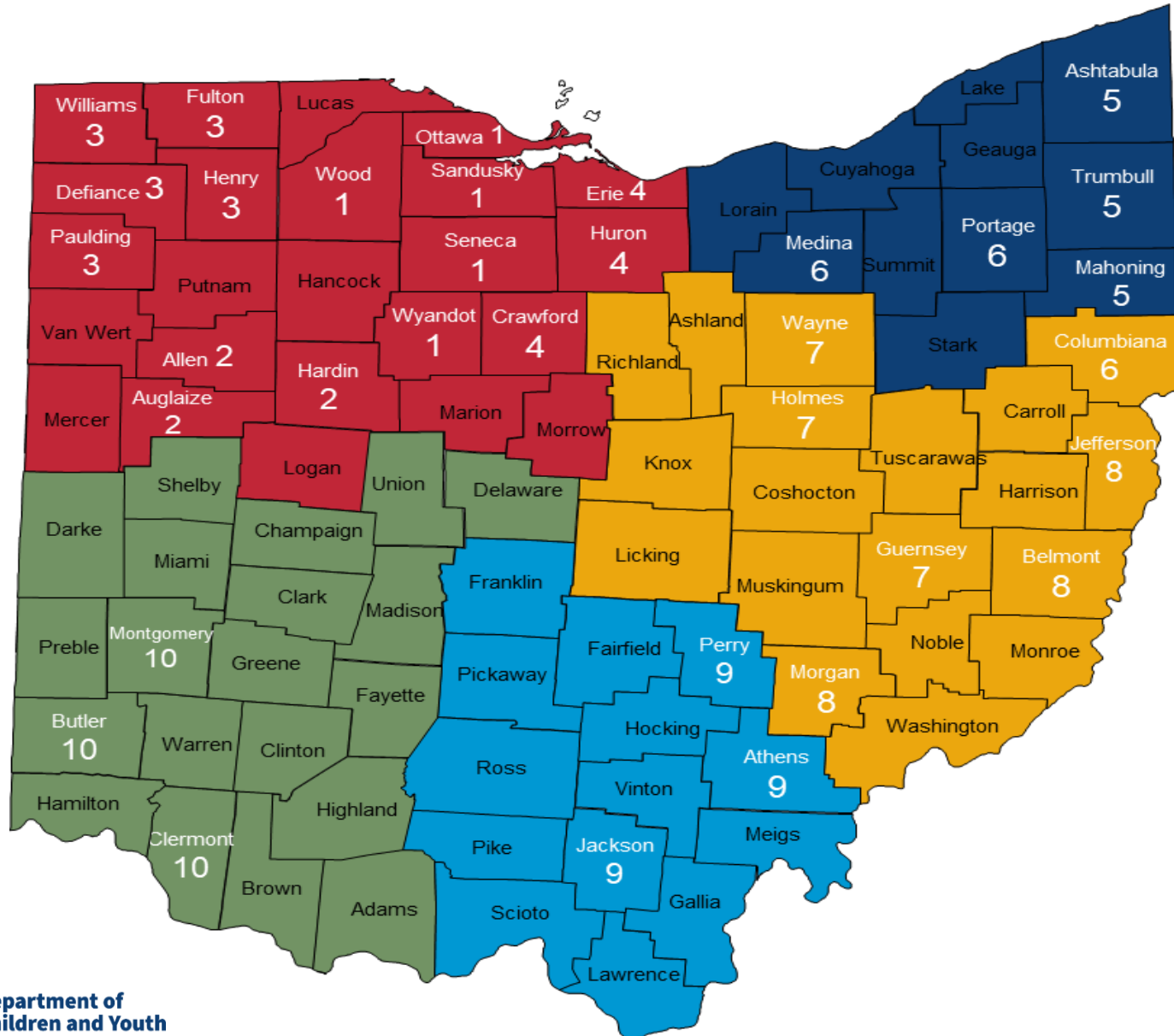
1	Ottawa, Wood, **Sandusky**, Seneca, Wyandot
2	**Allen**, Auglaize, Hardin
3	**Defiance / Paulding**, Fulton, Henry, Williams
4	**Huron**, Erie, Crawford
5	**Mahoning**, Ashtabula, Trumbull
6	**Portage**, Medina, Columbiana
7	**Guernsey**, Holmes, Wayne
8	**Belmont**, Jefferson, Morgan
9	**Athens**, Perry, Jackson
10	**Montgomery**, Butler, Clermont

*Bold represents lead county for each partnership

Department of Children and Youth

WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

A well-developed workforce pipeline is essential for ensuring the stability, quality, and effectiveness of support services for Ohio families. DCY collectively enhances our workforce though the following programs.

POWER Ohio

- POWER Ohio (Powering Optimal Wages and Encouraging Retention) was created by a subcommittee of state agencies and early childhood stakeholders.

- The program purpose is to provide additional funds to professionals and increase these trained professionals' retention in their programs.

T.E.A.C.H.

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® OHIO is a compensation and retention program for Child Care professionals.

- Active in 23 states, T.E.A.C.H. is designed to address education, compensation and turnover issues that affect the early childhood field.

- Assistance is available for the cost of tuition, books, and related education expenses.

UPP (University Partnership Program)

- UPP was established in 2002, as a partnership among the ODJFS, eight of Ohio's public university schools of social work, OUCCAS, PCSAO, and Ohio's 85 PCSAs.

- UPP bolsters Ohio's professional child protection workforce by increasing the number of graduates with B.A. and M.A. degrees in social work who enter the field.

Northwest Ohio Fellowship Program

- Provides fellowship opportunities to college seniors majoring in related degrees.

- Fellowship students complete required core training that caseworkers normally complete upon being hired, and they gain relevant experience in the field.

Department of Children and Youth

County Reporting & Best Practices

BEST PRACTICE INCENTIVES – CHILDREN SERVICES

The aim is to incentivize agencies making marked improvements in achieving compliance with visitation and timely assessment/investigation measures. Advancements in these areas are critical to our state's success in making transformative change for families served by our child protection system.

Best Practice Incentives Measures

The Best Practice Incentives focus on two measures fundamental to the Children Services mission:

1. Timely Assessments/Investigations
2. A composite visitation score of all required face-to-face visits with children and parents.

Children Services Best Practice Incentive Program categories

The two Children Services Best Practice Incentive Program categories remain the same: **Most Improved** and those **Achieving 95% Compliance**.

APPLICATION TIMELINESS – EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Two one-time incentives were provided to support the additional training to determine eligibility for the: 1) Child Care Choice Voucher Program (families working or going to school between 146% up to 200% FPL); and 2)Early Childhood Education (state preschool).

Two new incentive payments were created to support counties that improved the most in application timeliness & those counties achieving the best overall application timeliness rate based on April 2024 to October 2024.

Training Incentives – April & July

Size	#	Amount	Total	Counties
X Large	3	$100,000.00	$300,000.00	Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton
Large	6	$75,000.00	$450,000.00	Butler, Lorain, Lucas, Montgomery, Stark, Summit
Medium	18	$50,000.00	$900,000.00	Allen, Clark, Clermont, Columbiana, Delaware, Fairfield, Greene, Lake, Licking, Mahoning, Medina, Miami, Portage, Richland, Trumbull, Warren, Wood, Wayne
Small	61	$25,000.00	$1,525,000.00	All Others Not Listed Above
Total	88		$3,175,000.00	

Most Improved & Best Overall Application Timeliness

Size	Amounts	Awards	Total
XL/L	$200,000	2	$400,000
M	$100,000	2	$200,000
S	$50,000	2	$100,000
Grand Total			**$700,000**

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

Next Steps

WHO WE SERVE – ANNUAL BASELINE (2023)

OHIO AT A GLANCE

| 11.8M Residents of Ohio | 3.0M Children – Under 21 | 1.6M Ohioans in Poverty | 496K Children (under 18) living in poverty |
| | 680K Children – Under 5 | | |

Data from 2020 Census and Ohio Poverty Report (2020)

CHILDREN SERVICES

24,109
Annual number of children in agency custody and placement

14,230
Total number of children in foster care

71,049
Total number of screened in child abuse and/or neglect reports

EARLY INTERVENTION

34,925
Total EI program referral count

28,450
Total number of children served

HOME VISITING

12,571
Total Help Me Grow home visiting program referral count
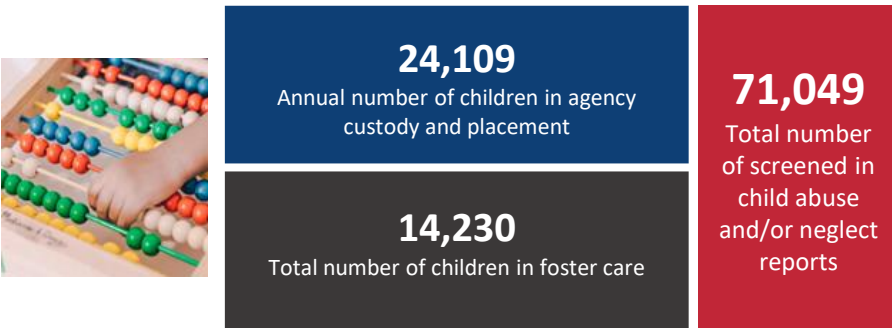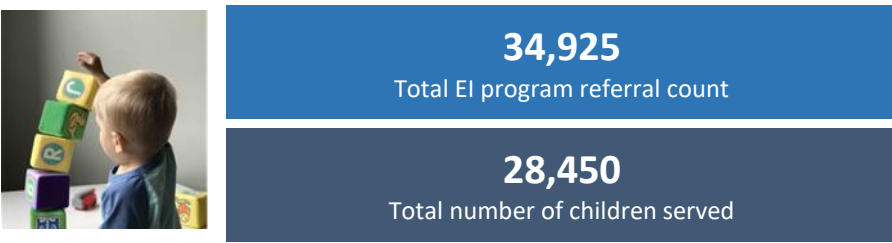
11,645
Total children served in Help Me Grow home visiting

CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

22,386
Total number of families engaged in prevention programs

COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD

2,048
Total number of fathers educated and served

FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

2,554
Total children served with family centered services and supports funds

INFANT & MATERNAL MORTALITY

Infant Deaths CY2021

| **912** Total number of infant deaths | **7.0/1,000** Total number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births |

Maternal Pregnancy-Related Deaths CY2017-18

| **72** Total number of maternal deaths | **26.5/100,000** Total number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births |
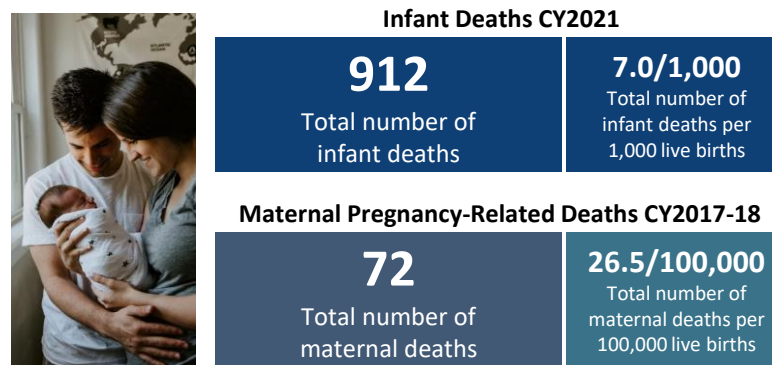
DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF OHIO

467,772
Total number of children served

4,329,946
Total number of books distributed

CHILD CARE & EDUCATION

31,028
Total number of children served in special education preschool (SFY22)

35.40%
Demonstrating Kindergarten Readiness

137,265
Total number of children in care who received Publicly Funded Child Care

8,601
Total count of licensed programs

| **4,372** Child Care Centers | **331** Family Child Care – Type A Home | **2,101** Family Child Care – Type B Home |
| **1,503** Preschool Programs | | **294** School-Age Child Care |

All data points are for state fiscal year (SFY) 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) and unduplicated, unless noted otherwise

Vision: *Each Ohioan is able to live up to their full potential and have the opportunity to live their version of the American dream.*

Mission: *Promote positive, lifelong outcomes for all Ohio youth.*

THE WORK OF DCY | OUTCOME AREAS | SHORT-TERM GOALS | LONG-TERM GOALS

Creates a culture that prioritizes

- Transparency & Accountability
- Supporting Local Structure
- Data-driven Decisions
- Family & Youth Voice
- Equity

- Awareness
- Identification
- Prevention
- Intervention
- Wellness
- Support

And focuses efforts along the continuum of care

Providing support and programming across a variety of program areas

- Maternal & Infant Wellness
- Early Care & Education
- Early Childhood Development
- Children Services, Foster, Kinship, & Adoption
- Family Support & Stabilization
- Young Adult Supports

Supporting Areas

Infant Wellness: Reduce infant mortality

Early Childhood Development: Increase access to and usage of early intervention and medical supports

Early Care & Education: Decrease staff turnover and increase child enrollment

Maternal Health: Decrease maternal mortality and improve prenatal health

Family Stability: Support family resiliency and access to healthy, nutritious food

Safe & Healthy Homes: Support safe, stable homes for children to grow up in

Parent Awareness: Increase awareness of services and child development milestones

Screening & Referral: Increase ASQ* Screening and referral to appropriate services

Education: Improve youth educational outcomes and graduation rates

Adolescent Health: Reduce prevalence of behavioral, mental, & physical health risks

Increase the number of families served by Home Visiting by 10% (1,165 more children)

10% increase in serving mothers and infants (additional 1,400 moms and babies) through neighborhood navigation, Baby and Me Tobacco Free and Safe Sleep

Reduce turnover by 5% for Administrators, Lead Teachers and Assistant Teachers

53% of infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention (EI) services will increase social / emotional development

55% of infants and toddlers receiving EI services will exit EI within age expectation in the social and emotional domain

Increase Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) direct service consultation by 25% (85 to 109 consultants)

Decrease the number of children in congregate care settings by 10% (200 children)

Increase the number of licensed foster parents by 5% (with focus on high acuity children (approximately 350 children)

Increase access to nontraditional care and care for children with special needs by 10% (2,000 children)

Increase Publicly-Funded Child Care (PFCC) access for infants and toddlers by 10% (2,000 children)

Increase the number of children in 2024/2025 school year demonstrating on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) by 7% (7,800 children)

SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH: Help more children thrive in safe, healthy environments to reach their first birthday and beyond

EMPOWER FAMILIES: Empower families with needed resources and supports before, during and after a need

UPLIFT COMMUNITIES: Invest in community resources to enable support along the continuum of ages, stages, and services to help children and youth succeed

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

ASQ = Ages and Stages Questionnaire

LONG TERM GOAL #1: SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH

Help more children thrive in safe, healthy environments to reach their first birthday and beyond

OUTCOME AREAS

Infant Wellness:
Reduce infant mortality

Early Childhood Development:
Increase access to and usage of early intervention and medical supports

Early Care & Education:
Decrease staff turnover and increase child enrollment

Maternal Health:
Decrease maternal mortality and improve prenatal health

SHORT-TERM GOALS

☑ Increase the number of families served by Home Visiting by 10% (1,165 more children)

☑ 10% increase in serving mothers and infants (additional 1,400 moms and babies) through neighborhood navigation, Baby and Me Tobacco Free and Safe Sleep

☑ Reduce turnover by 5% for Administrators, Lead Teachers and Assistant Teachers

☑ 53% of infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention (EI) services will increase social / emotional development

☑ 55% of infants and toddlers receiving EI services will exit EI within age expectation in the social and emotional domain

Ohio **Department of Children and Youth**

LONG TERM GOAL #2: EMPOWER FAMILIES

Empower families with needed resources and supports before, during and after a need

OUTCOME AREAS

Family Stability:
Support family resiliency and access to healthy, nutritious food

Safe & Healthy Homes:
Support safe, stable homes for children to grow up in

Parent Awareness:
Increase awareness of services and child development milestones

SHORT-TERM GOALS

☑ Increase Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) direct service consultation by 25% (85 to 109 consultants)

☑ Decrease the number of children in congregate care settings by 10% (200 children)

☑ Increase the number of licensed foster parents by 5% (with focus on high acuity children (approximately 350 children)

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

LONG TERM GOAL #3: UPLIFT COMMUNITIES

Invest in community resources to enable support along the continuum of ages, stages, and services to help children and youth succeed

OUTCOME AREAS

Screening & Referral:
Increase ASQ* Screening and referral to appropriate services

Education:
Improve youth educational outcomes and graduation rates

Adolescent Health:
Reduce prevalence of behavioral, mental, & physical health risks

ASQ = Ages and Stages Questionnaire

SHORT-TERM GOALS

☑ Increase access to nontraditional care and care for children with special needs by 10% (2,000 children)

☑ Increase Publicly-Funded Child Care (PFCC) access for infants and toddlers by 10% (2,000 children)

☑ Increase the number of children in 2024/2025 school year demonstrating on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) by 7% (7,800 children)

THE FUTURE OF OHIO - DRAFT

Ohio aims to be the **best place in the country to start and raise a family** and DCY has outlined the **following goals to become a leading state** (e.g., top 10 in the country across 3 program areas):

Maternal & Infant Wellness
Rate of Infant Mortality

Today
7.1
per 1000

Future
4.4
per 1000

DCY wants to make OH a top 10 state in the US

Early Care & Education
Rate of Children Demonstrating Readiness on the KRA

Today
35%
Demonstrating KR

Future
60%
Demonstrating KR

DCY wants to bring all counties to the 99th percentile of OH counties and improve outcomes by 70%

Children Services, Kinship, Foster & Adoption
Rate of Children Entering Foster Care

Today
3.3
per 1000

Future
2.0
per 1000

DCY wants to make OH a top 10 state in the US

Ohio Department of Children and Youth