

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is an independent government agency governed by a 15 member board of both public and private representatives. The Board oversees program and policy matters of the OCTF and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services acts as the administrative agent overseeing fiscal matters. The OCTF is also the state's Prevent Child Abuse America chapter.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** OCTF allocates funds for communities through a formulaic process based on the number of children in each county. Local Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) are the bodies that direct local funding. Each FCFC consists of representatives from a range of state and local government systems, service providers and at least three parents who have accessed resources from FCFC funded programs. FCFCs implement their own processes for investing in services based on community needs, but all councils must meet OCTF criteria. Local Councils also report to a state level Cabinet Council. Local councils fund a variety of programs with OCTF dollars. There are a wide variety of service strategies including parent education, parent support, home visitation and sexual abuse prevention programming. In FY2009, OCTF funded 170 community programs through FCFCs.

In addition, OCTF funded start-up and primary prevention services at three Child Advocacy Centers and agreed to provide funding in the next FY for statewide initiatives to support the evidence-based programs: Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children child sexual assault prevention program and Incredible Years. In FY2009, OCTF also provided funding for the Ohio Alternative Response Project.

- **Policy achievements:** OCTF Board adopted a 2009 – 2014 strategic plan that includes three main areas of focus: 1) identifying child maltreatment as a serious public health problem; 2) building and promoting protective factors to reduce risk factors that lead to child maltreatment; and 3) investing in evidence-informed prevention programs that are community driven.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** OCTF has chosen to fund two program models based in part on their culturally sensitive curricula that support culturally competent service provision. The programs are Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children and Incredible Years. Grantees are also required to report on outreach activities to reach underserved populations and efforts to increase cultural competency such as providing a diverse selection of books and materials and providing bilingual staff and materials.
- **Parent involvement/leadership:** During the reporting period, OCTF joined Ohio's cross-system Family Engagement Committee. The committee focuses on aligning and coordinating parent/family engagement resources, policies and efforts among 14 state agencies. Work was completed on a strategic planning process and next steps are focused on improving parent advocacy, and implementing training for both parents and agency professionals.

Parents also sit on the committee. All local FCFCs must have representation by at least three family members who have been service recipients.



- Evaluation:** OCTF funded programs engage in program evaluation as demonstrated by their Biennial Report. Results highlighted in that report are focused on protective factor outcomes. Examples include results from a Nurturing Parenting program in Columbus using the Adult and Adolescent Parenting Inventory where 72 of 90 parents enrolled showed improvement from pre to post test; and the Positive Parenting Program providing home visitation in Tuscarawas county reported that 92% of parents served identified increased understanding and knowledge of child development as a result of program participation.
- Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** OCTF held a series of meetings for grantees and other stakeholders on the promotion of protective factors, prevention programs and family support. Technical assistance was provided by OCTF on marketing and public awareness in April, evaluation and data management, and additional resources were provided through the listserv and webinars.

Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	20,061	# families	9,373
	# children with disabilities		# parents with disabilities	535
Reach	# local grantees	173*		
Spread	# training sessions on Incredible Years and Stewards of Children evidence-based models	83	# professionals participating in training	1210

*Does not include programs funded through the Ohio Alternative Response Project

ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Family and Children First Cabinet Council Partnership

Ohio’s Alternative Response Project: OCTF with the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Department of Job and Family Services are part of an interagency collaboration to plan and implement a pilot project.

Ohio Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Consortium: Cross-system collaboration that has led to joint training, summit co-sponsorship and leveraged resources.



Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project: Public-private collaboration to inform public policy with research and statistics on family violence

Key partners:

Public Sector

- Child welfare
- Differential or alternative response
- Public health/ maternal and child health
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Home visiting
- Substance abuse

- Mental health
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Child care
- TANF or cash assistance
- Domestic Violence Services

Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations

SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP):** OCTF was a participant in the CFRS/PIP as a stakeholder. Work during the period has included aligning OCTF prevention program efforts with the safety indicators for child well-being. We are also working with the child welfare office on improving flexible funding strategies to serve families in crisis to prevent a maltreatment occurrence or child removal.
- **Home Visiting:** OCTF was identified as a strategic partner in the state's emerging effort to develop and implement a statewide home visitation program. The Ohio Department of Health is leading this effort.
- **Early Childhood / Strengthening Families:** *Strengthening Families Ohio* was launched in July 2009 with the goal of embedding the Strengthening Families protective factors into systems. OCTF has a specific focus of working on this effort in early care and education, child welfare and community serving organizations. In addition to the launch, activities during the reporting period were focused on establishing a leadership team and developing the initiative's web site. Of the 37 stakeholders invited to join the leadership team, 35 accepted. OCTF was also invited to participate in the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds QRIS workgroup. Ohio joined Idaho, Pennsylvania and Hawaii in looking nationally at ways to embed the protective factors and strategies into QRIS.



- Ohio's Alternative Response Project:** Together with the Ohio Supreme Court and the state's child welfare agency, OCTF planned and implemented an 18-month pilot project to provide an alternative service system for families reported for child maltreatment. The alternative response focused on family assessment and service provision. The OCTF piece included providing \$1,000,000 for local services that strengthen and support families. Highlights of the project's final evaluation include: evidence of improved engagement and satisfaction; provision of poverty related services were increased; linkages to counseling and mental health services for families was more frequent; subsequent reports, removals and out-of-home placements declined.

FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

- Trust fund dollars are generated by fees on certified birth and death certificates and surcharges on marriage dissolutions.

State Allowable Claims	4,893,691
Population-based Allocations	929,098
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	168,135
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	1,286,562

EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	0
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	0
Promising Programs and Practices	0
Supported Programs and Practices	0
Well Supported Programs and Practices	\$159,975



TRAINING TOPICS

Administrative and Management Topics

- Evaluation and data management
- Program monitoring and continuous quality improvement

Programmatic and Service Topics

- Research on prevention and child maltreatment
- Prevention programs and family support
- Promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors

RESOURCES

- Strengthening Families:
<http://www.ctfalliance.org/>
- County Resources Interactive Map:
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF/county.stm>
- National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds: <http://www.ctfalliance.org/>
- Annual State Profiles: www.friendsnrc.org/

