THE OHIO CHILDREN’S TRUST FUND
BIENNIAL REPORT
SFY 2016 - SFY 2017
MAKING VITAL CONNECTIONS
On behalf of the members of the Board and staff of the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF), we are pleased to present to you the OCTF Biennial Report for State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2016 and 2017. The following pages highlight our ongoing prevention work of making vital connections to fulfill our mission of preventing child abuse and child neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families and safe children.

The Trust Fund believes that child abuse and child neglect prevention is the most critical issue we can address for the long-term prosperity of our state and nation. We have seen the devastating effects that child abuse and child neglect have on our children and their ability to function and live healthy lives. We know the key to our prevention work lies in connecting people to the funds and resources needed to prevent child abuse and child neglect.

Through building connections with our state and local partners, the Trust Fund has continued to ensure the provision of evidence-based child abuse and child neglect prevention programming in our communities in addition to initiatives and projects of statewide significance. Over the last two years, the OCTF has provided strong child abuse and child neglect prevention leadership by acting as the bridge that connects parents, community members, educators, state agencies, legislators, the media, and the public to child abuse and child neglect prevention information and resources.

During this biennium, the Trust Fund has accomplished many noteworthy goals and finds itself in a stronger position both programmatically and fiscally. We have developed and are currently implementing a new regional funding model and we have worked to enhance our financial sustainability.

All of the connections we have made over the past biennium and the accomplishments we have achieved would have been impossible without the extraordinary support and assistance we have received from individuals, policymakers and organizations throughout Ohio that have worked alongside us to protect children and families from abuse and neglect.

We are grateful to our donors and funders who provide us with the resources to carry out our important work and we appreciate our stakeholders and partners who work with us toward the fulfillment of our mission.

We are excited to share with you the highlights of the past two years. We thank you for your commitment to strengthening families and children and we ask for your continued support and involvement in our child abuse and child neglect prevention efforts.

Sincerely,

Representative Sarah LaTourette, Chairman

Kristen N. Rost, Executive Director
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INTRODUCTION

Making vital connections is the key to our prevention work as we fulfill our mission of preventing child abuse and child neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families and safe children.

As you will see in the following pages, these connections are apparent all throughout the work we do, whether it is connecting providers to information and trainings, connecting the community with awareness of critical child abuse prevention issues or connecting people to the funds and resources needed to prevent child abuse and child neglect.

The Trust Fund’s commitment to building connections to better address the needs of Ohioans is evident in our five-year (2016-2021) strategic plan. The core purpose of the plan revolves around further enhancing our collaborations and connections with numerous partners within multiple arenas whom we work with as we invest in child maltreatment programs and strategies as well as advocate for national, state and local policies that will advance the development of a diverse and inclusive child maltreatment prevention infrastructure that can be sustained over time.

Since its creation in 1984, the Trust Fund continues to believe that the prevention of child abuse and child neglect is a never-ending commitment that requires everyone’s active participation given that it represents the most critical issue we can address for the long-term prosperity of our state and nation.
Providing child abuse and child neglect prevention services to Ohio's families and children is the core mission of the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund. These services are implemented in various ways to meet the unique needs of the families involved. During the biennium, services were provided to individuals in the general public through parent education programs, school-based and early education center-based programs, awareness campaigns, professional development and training, as well as through public service announcements.

A more targeted approach to serving families at greater risk of child maltreatment was also utilized during SFY 2016 - SFY 2017 by providing home visits and more intensive and individualized education and training to parents and children who display risk factors for abuse and neglect. During the biennium, we continued to recognize that Ohio’s most vulnerable families are under considerable amounts of stress, and that factors, such as a lack of knowledge of parenting skills or an inability to access concrete supports in times of need, may impact a parent’s ability to effectively care for his/her child. By working with families to mitigate risk factors and boost protective factors, the OCTF worked to strengthen Ohio’s families.

The Trust Fund could not do its work alone, though. Between SFY 2016 and SFY 2017, the OCTF continued to engage its local connections with over 130 service providers to ensure Ohio families received much needed child abuse and child neglect prevention programs and services.

“I am thankful. I learned a lot. I loved reflecting on our individual parenting styles and I think it will help me be more patient.”

Quote from a program participant
Ohio Children’s Trust Fund prevention efforts build connections among partners, resources and funding to facilitate the provision of vital child abuse and child neglect prevention services across our state.

During the biennium, our connections at the regional level were strengthened through the development of a regional model of funding that divides Ohio into eight child abuse and child neglect prevention regions, each consisting of several counties. Each region has a regional prevention council that is composed of county prevention specialists (e.g. council members) and directed by a regional prevention coordinator.

Council members are experts in child welfare, addiction, mental health, developmental disabilities, education, juvenile justice, medicine, and child abuse and child neglect prevention. Members use their local expertise to help inform the work of the council in determining the needs for the regions’ families, as well as funding services to address those needs. Through this model, council members ensure that families in every Ohio county receive child abuse and child neglect prevention services.

During SFY 2016 - SFY 2017, 162 child abuse and child neglect prevention specialists served on the eight regional prevention councils, encompassing expertise from the following fields as documented below.

Each regional prevention council is staffed by a backbone organization, which serves as the regional prevention coordinating entity and provides budgetary, procurement and other related administrative functions of the council.

Trust Fund staff strengthened their connections to their regional partners by attending council meetings and providing extensive technical assistance and support. This was further enhanced through the facilitation of quarterly networking meetings amongst the OCTF and its coordinating entities, where partners were encouraged to share their progress, discuss their challenges and successes, brainstorm best practices, and ensure uniformity in regional operations. By bringing these partners together, these backbone organizations have developed professional relationships with each other, which fostered independent collaborations between these entities.

The work to be completed in the SFY 2016 and SFY 2017 biennium was extensive. Each region completed a comprehensive baseline regional needs assessment, which served as the basis for statewide child abuse and child neglect prevention service provision. Furthermore, data gleaned from these needs assessments enabled the Trust Fund and its partners to know for the first time: what the most pressing needs are within each region to successfully prevent child abuse and child neglect; the gaps in prevention services and where they are located; the type of services needed; and how much funding is needed to provide adequate child abuse and child neglect prevention services across Ohio.

As the Trust Fund cannot address all needs identified in each region, the regional prevention councils were tasked with determining the priority needs for the families they serve. Similarities exist between regions in the priority needs identified, but differences in how to address these needs are apparent as implementation of service delivery varies amongst the differing cultures present in each region.
A summary of the priority needs identified during the biennium, as well as the OCTF Board approved prevention strategies, are detailed below for each region:

Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council

The heroin/opioid epidemic has affected thousands of families in Central Ohio. Substance abuse during pregnancy has been a major source of reports to child protective services, which is further compounded by the fact that Central Ohio’s population is growing, which could result in increased caseloads for child welfare professionals. To combat these needs, the Central Ohio region approved the implementation of parenting programs that target families at risk of substance abuse, as well as a pilot program based in part on the Maternal Opiate Medical Supports (MOMS) project to provide supplemental care coordination to boost parental substance abuse services.

Eastern Ohio Regional Prevention Council

In Eastern Ohio, the lack of quality childcare, above state average unemployment rates, high poverty levels, higher than state average numbers of students with physical and mental health disabilities, decreased rates of school readiness, increased levels of substance abuse and lack of adequate resources to meet community needs are negatively impacting families across the region. To mitigate some of these needs, the Eastern Ohio region approved providing training and assistance to childcare providers utilizing evidence-based, best practice curriculums with a priority focus on home-based services. Additionally, the region approved the provision of mentoring services to youth and adolescents utilizing evidence-based or research-informed best practices to support the youth’s development.

Great Lakes Ohio Regional Prevention Council

The Great Lakes Ohio region identified increasing rates of opioid addiction and substance abuse coupled with high levels of parenting stress, above state average unemployment rates and substantiated child maltreatment rates in multiple counties, lack of concrete supports for caregivers, and a need for more formal and informal social support networks for parents as a priority. The regional prevention council approved the implementation of parenting programs that have demonstrated an ability to increase the capacity of parents and caregivers to maintain stability, manage emotions, and provide nurturing support, despite difficult or challenging circumstances, utilizing a resiliency-oriented approach. The region also approved the implementation of parenting programs that strengthen the social support networks of at-risk parents and caregivers which focus on increasing and improving inter-family interactions and / or creating opportunities for constructive and peer-to-peer and mentoring services to improve parents’ life skills and decrease stress.

Northeast Ohio Regional Prevention Council

The greatest needs for families in the Northeast Ohio region pertain to the lack of quality childcare, high numbers of children living in poverty and the changing of household composition where increased numbers of grandparents are raising grandchildren. Approved service delivery efforts in this region will begin with professional training and development for early care and education providers to firmly embed the Strengthening Families Framework throughout the region. Parent education programs were also approved, which will increase the parents'/caregivers' knowledge of the Strengthening Families Framework protective factors utilizing evidence-based programs.
Northwest Ohio Regional Prevention Council

In Northwest Ohio, three priority needs were identified which include, the lack of available high quality and affordable preschool and childcare, improved transportation and/or programs that reduce transportation-related barriers, and improved access to and availability of mental health and substance abuse treatment. The regional prevention council approved a comprehensive approach to address these needs. The strategies are inclusive of an awareness campaign which targets families impacted by substance abuse to identify how this issue links to child abuse and child neglect. The region also approved providing Early Childhood Mental Health consultation services to early childhood professionals via trauma-informed consultations to ensure children afflicted with trauma are appropriately referred for services. Additionally, a final strategy approved was the implementation of parenting support and education programs which target vulnerable and isolated families dealing with numerous risk factors, such as mental health disorders, substance abuse, social isolation, multiple young children close in age, etc.

Southeast Ohio Regional Prevention Council

Council members in Southeast Ohio identified above state average rates of unemployment, overcrowded housing and substantiated allegations of child maltreatment, along with increased rates of substance abuse, high rates of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, a higher than state rate of children with physical and mental disabilities, high levels of children living in poverty with unmet basic needs and increased levels of food insufficiency, as priority needs in the region. Efforts approved to mitigate these needs are the implementation of parenting programs, with a focus on parents/caregivers with a trauma history or behavioral health risk factors, to strengthen parenting skills through utilization of evidence-based, best practices. An additional strategy approved in the region is the facilitation of youth and child programs that focus on improving the child’s self-esteem, self-confidence, resiliency, self-regulation/self-control, conflict resolution, and social and communication skills through utilization of evidence-based and family-centered practices.

Southwest Ohio Regional Prevention Council

Similar to other regions, partners in Southwest Ohio identified high levels of parenting stress along with increased levels of substance abuse, a growing number of children with physical and/or mental health disabilities, and a lack of quality childcare as priority needs affecting thousands of families across the region. The regional prevention council approved a multi-tiered approach to combat these issues. To inform the general public of the needs for this region, an awareness campaign will be implemented targeting all families in the region to explain the risk factors associated with child abuse and child neglect. Additionally, the region will implement parenting programs and professional development trainings intended to increase community, parent and caregiver knowledge to promote optimal child development and to ensure that parents have the skills to promote positive relationships with their children. Finally, the region’s at-risk youth and children will be provided with social and emotional regulation skills.

Western Ohio Regional Prevention Council

In Western Ohio, an above state average teen birth rate, trauma, increased levels of intimate partner violence, adult behavioral health (substance abuse and/or mental illness), physical, cognitive, social development of children, and emotional and behavioral problems experienced by children were identified as the priority needs for the region. Efforts to address these needs were approved by the council and include the implementation of evidence-based parenting programs that improve parents’ understanding of their protective factors, specifically targeting parents of newborns, teen parents, parents of children under age six, parents of children with disabilities, and former victims of domestic violence and child abuse and child neglect. Additional approved strategies include the facilitation of youth and child programs that focus on improving the child’s social and emotional regulation skills utilizing evidence-based programming.
While our work at the local and regional level ensured that Ohioans throughout the state had access to much needed child abuse and child neglect prevention services, it is our work at the state level that ensured we are leveraging resources effectively and utilizing best practices across multiple systems and associations. It is these state level connections that allowed us to foster and maintain a multisystem community response to child abuse and child neglect prevention that provides for the safety and well-being of children by strengthening among other things, the resiliency of families.

During the biennium, our state partners in systems such as child welfare, health care, social services, education, and law enforcement, played a critical and central role in helping us expand our community response by working with us to actively engage families at key touch points in their lives.

In SFY 2016 - SFY 2017, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund collaborated with state agencies and associations by sharing information that identified the most pressing needs for Ohio to successfully prevent child abuse and child neglect, which was also inclusive of service delivery gaps. Additionally, through our statewide connections, we ensured that child abuse prevention strategies supported with our funding were not duplicative to ensure that state resources were most effectively utilized throughout Ohio.

Our state partnerships allowed us to provide comprehensive services to Ohioans from birth through adulthood.
During the month of April 2016, many of Ohio’s 88 counties joined us to make it their mission to recognize and promote April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Our partners across the state helped us promote the statewide #PinwheelSelfie campaign. With effective social media marketing, the Trust Fund grew its Facebook followers by 6,198 new supporters! Our social media campaign reached an average of 54,000 Ohioans per week in April with help from our partnership with the Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

We built connections everyday during this month to help foster our relationships with other partner agencies, local nonprofits, businesses, families in need, young adults, and children.

4,015,626
Ohioans received Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness Messaging

5,513
Ohioans cast votes for the #PinwheelSelfie youth art contest

11,200
Campaign radio spots aired during April 2016

1,571
Ohioans added the #PinwheelSelfie profile picture
Help us raise children who don’t have to recover from their childhood.

In Ohio, there is a confirmed report of child abuse and/or child neglect every 30 minutes. This figure is alarming, and it propelled the Trust Fund into action to ensure that all Ohioans know that they can play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect through simple acts of kindness.

In April 2017, our campaign asked Ohioans, “What can you do to help prevent child abuse and neglect in the next 30 minutes?” Ohio answered our call to action and boosted our social media activity to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention.

4,718 new page fans
1,270,324 ad impressions

Over 20,000 clicked links to next30.org website

Campaign PSA viewed nearly 500,000 times

Over 5,000 impressions

8 regions distributed
50,500 printed materials

OUR IMPACT
April 2017 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month
During the biennium, Trust Fund staff provided extensive technical assistance and training to its partners across Ohio. This assistance helped build the infrastructure and capacity at the local, regional and statewide level. The OCTF held professional trainings, conducted peer networking meetings, and served as subject matter experts on numerous grant review teams.

The OCTF understands how expensive professional development courses can be, and in SFY 2016 - SFY 2017, the Trust Fund developed numerous online learning courses for professionals to bring ongoing education opportunities to service providers where they work.

“OCTF does a great job providing support... The Trust Fund has always been supportive of local communities and that is always appreciated.”

Our people are our top resource to connect our partners to services.

- 5,125 hours of technical assistance provided to local, regional and state partners
- 300 professionals received child abuse and neglect prevention training
- 10,000 visits to access the online child abuse prevention course for childcare workers
Over the last two fiscal years, the OCTF made significant progress working collaboratively with state, regional and local systems to facilitate efficient and effective preventative services across Ohio.

Using the data from the comprehensive baseline regional needs assessments and the strategies from the regional prevention plans, the OCTF and our regional partners issued requests for proposals through which vendors were selected and are now being funded to provide essential prevention programs and services that are responsive to the needs of children and families in Ohio.

Moving forward, the Trust Fund will work closely with its regional partners to monitor the coordination of county and regional data collection through which we will evaluate vendors’ completion of deliverables and achievement of prevention outcomes.

In addition, the Trust Fund will ensure the ongoing monitoring and updating of our regional needs assessment data by partnering with Wright State University’s Applied Policy Research Institute to develop and implement a child well-being data dashboard. This dashboard will result in shared metrics across Ohio and our eight regions for reporting progress, learning, and ongoing monitoring of performance indicators. This dashboard will also build awareness of child well-being among private, public, and nonprofit agencies as well as the public at-large.

The Trust Fund will also continue implementing its current five-year strategic plan, which provides the roadmap for the OCTF to utilize in ensuring that child abuse and child neglect prevention efforts follow a holistic, strength-based approach. This core purpose will continue to guide the Trust Fund’s operational, programmatic and fiscal decisions as we plan and implement child maltreatment prevention and policy.

The OCTF will seek to further diversify its funding portfolio so that we can expand prevention services across Ohio as well as increase our partnerships with all entities that touch a family’s life. As our work to improve operations is never complete, we will continue soliciting feedback from our partners and stakeholders as to how the Trust Fund is performing and how that performance can be improved.
The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund takes pride in being a good steward of public funding. The Trust Fund receives revenue from fees collected at the local level on certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates and divorce decrees and dissolutions. The OCTF also solicits and accepts gifts, donations and money from individuals and corporations as well as engages in public-private partnerships. In addition, the Trust Fund receives federal funding as Ohio’s lead agency on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant. As provided under Ohio law, the Trust Fund invests its revenue in prevention programs at the local level by partnering with Ohio’s eight regional prevention councils, as well as investing in state level initiatives.

During the SFY 2016 - 2017 biennium, OCTF revenue grew 6% as compared to the previous biennium. By improving its efficiencies, the Trust Fund reduced its operating costs and invested nearly 90% of its funding in child abuse and child neglect prevention programs and services, which benefit Ohio’s families and children.
While donations to the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund account for less than 1% of overall revenue, 100% of donated funds are used to provide services to Ohio’s families and children to prevent child maltreatment. During the SFY 2016-2017 biennium, the OCTF increased its donation levels by 106%. Individuals stepped up during this biennium and increased their giving by 145%. Our corporate partner donations also grew by 107%. To learn more about how to donate to the OCTF, visit http://jfs.ohio.gov/OCTF/Donations.stm.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
who help us invest in strong communities, healthy families, and safe children.

SFY 2016 Donors
Anne Simpson Davis Middle School
Fresh Thyme Market
Giant Eagle
Todd Harris
Kappa Delta Eta Rho
Kroger
Mozart’s Bakery and Piano Café
Brenda Newton
Ohio Masons
Davida Osei
Overhead Door Company
Jack Pesicka
Roosters Wings
Tanger Properties
127 Individuals and Offices at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services during Dress Down Days

SFY 2017 Donors
Chipotle
Flyers Pizza
Mary Angela Igel
Kappa Delta Eta Rho
Amanda Laing
Lowe’s Home Centers, LLC
Roosters Wings
Frank Schafer
Stauffer Enterprises, LLC
Visconi Companies, LTD
125 Individuals and Offices at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services during Dress Down Days
The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund is directed by a board representing a broad public-private partnership. The board is comprised of members who represent the citizens of Ohio and are appointed by the Governor, as well as four legislative appointees and three agency directors (from the Ohio departments of Health, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services). During the SFY 2016-2017 biennium, board expertise was diverse in both geographic interest and knowledge. Board representation reflected the following fields: social work and child abuse and child neglect services, government relations and advocacy, health care, higher education, medicine, mental health, industry and private sector, and nonprofit executive leadership.

**2016 Board**

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Carrie Baker  
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Dr. Kathi Makoroff  
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Ronald J. Rees  
Executive Director, Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development  
Diana Starkey  
Advanced Trader, Marathon Petroleum Company  
Hancock County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

**2017 Board**

Sarah LaTourrette, Chair  
State Representative, 76th Ohio House District  
Ronald J. Rees, Vice Chair  
Executive Director, Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development  
Diana Starkey, Treasurer  
Advanced Trader, Marathon Petroleum Company  
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Cecil Thomas  
State Senator, 9th Ohio Senate District  
*Cynthia C. Dungey, Director  
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)  
*Rick Hodges, Director  
Ohio Department of Health (ODH)  
*Lance Himes, Director  
Ohio Department of Health (ODH) (beginning March 2017)  
*Tracy J. Plouck, Director  
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)  
Carrie Baker  
President and CEO, Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus  
Christina Hudak  
Educator, Miami University  
Dr. Kathi Makoroff  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati

*As permitted under Ohio law, the director designated an assistant or deputy director to serve in their place on the board.
To learn more about the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, visit http://jfs.ohio.gov/octf/ or follow us on Facebook and Twitter @OhioCTF.