



### **Mission**

The mission of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families and safe children.

### **Vision**

Every child will grow up nurtured by a network of strong communities and healthy families.

### **What If Statements**

#### *What If...*

- ❖ Every child grew up in a safe, nurturing and stable environment?
- ❖ All children were valued and engaged in their communities?
- ❖ All children experienced supportive relationships that encouraged and cultivated their dreams?
- ❖ All parents were supported and provided with the skills and resources they need?
- ❖ We all made a commitment to help families and children before intervention becomes necessary?

### **Approach**

In transforming the Children's Trust Fund into Ohio's leader and authority on child maltreatment prevention, the 2009 – 2014 strategic plan incorporates three critical areas: child maltreatment as a public health problem, promoting protective factors, and investing in evidence informed practices. In addition, the 2009–2014 strategic plan shifts the Ohio Children's Trust Fund from focusing solely on funding prevention programs to prioritizing increased attention to consumer education, social marketing, and public policy initiatives.

#### *Child maltreatment as a public health problem:*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified child maltreatment as a serious public health problem. The CDC's social ecological model favors multi-faceted approaches to the prevention of child maltreatment – addressing not only the individual child or family's risk factors, but also the norms, beliefs, and social and economic systems that create the conditions for child maltreatment to occur.

To this end, the OCTF strategic plan includes a continuum of activities that address multiple levels of the model with the end goal of providing developmentally appropriate programming across the life span and sustaining holistic prevention efforts.

*Promoting Protective Factors:*

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund will develop a framework for child abuse and neglect prevention that promotes a more thorough understanding of how building protective factors , in addition to reducing risk factors, can reduce maltreatment for young children and their families.

Promoting the protective factors allows programs and providers to promote healthy child development and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. This universal approach is effective in strengthening families long before risks of child abuse or neglect emerge.

*Evidence Informed:*

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund will ensure effectiveness within Ohio's prevention network by investing in evidence of effectiveness that integrates professional experience and expertise in the context of families' culture, characteristics, and values with scientifically rigorous methodology. The Trust Fund will build the capacity for the "science of evidence" by partnering with federal and state entities on evaluation, needs assessments and logic modeling.

**Statutory Authority:** Ohio Revised Code Sections 3109.13, 3109.14, 3109.15, 3109.16, 3109.17, 3109.171, 3109.172, 3109.18.

**Goal 1: Educate and empower communities (Strong Communities)**

*Strategies:*

1. Increase capacity within communities to support the needs of children and families by implementing effective early childhood development and family strengthening strategies.
2. Increase the awareness, understanding and promotion of protective factors while reducing risk factors that contribute to child maltreatment.
3. Increase awareness of the negative impact child maltreatment has on a community and state as a whole.
4. Increase availability of cost effective, evidence based and/or evidence informed programs and practices statewide.
5. Invest in statewide resource development by providing technical assistance and training.

**Goal 2: Strengthen Families (Healthy Families and Safe Children)**

*Strategies:*

1. Promote the healthy growth and development of children.
2. Increase awareness, understanding and promotion of protective factors to reduce the risk factors that contribute to child maltreatment.
3. Ensure families and children are linked with concrete solutions to temporary challenges.
4. Invest in statewide resource development by providing technical assistance and training.

**Goal 3: Expand Prevention Advocacy and Engagement (State and Local Prevention Network)**

*Strategies:*

1. Serve as independent convener of stakeholders to resolve identified concerns; be a catalyst for change.
2. Provide leadership to legislators and policymakers on child maltreatment prevention.
3. Establish the board as a leader and authority on child maltreatment prevention.
4. Partner with state agencies and stakeholders to identify data that will support investment in prevention.
5. Empower OCTF Board Members, drawing upon their individual area of expertise.
6. Build board capacity to serve as ambassadors to carry forward the OCTF mission and vision.

**Goal 4: Create and maintain a strong OCTF infrastructure (money, people, processes and outcomes).**

*Strategies:*

1. Invest in qualitative and quantitative research to promote evidence informed practice.
2. Invest in Continuous Quality Improvement.
3. Build a diverse financial infrastructure to support the Children's Trust Fund's strategic plan.
4. Invest in staff and board development by providing technical assistance and training.

**Ohio Children's Trust Fund  
Strategic Plan Supplement**

**Activities to Achieve Goals**

**Goal 1: Educate and Empower Communities (Strong Communities)**

- Prioritize cross system engagement at state and local levels focused on enhancing community support for children and families.
- Ensure that programs and materials are available in a variety of languages that reflect community demographics.
- Engage entire community in building protective factors to support families and children.

**Goal 2: Strengthen Families (Health Families and Safe Children)**

- Provide a network of parent support within each community.
- Ensure all programs identify the importance of a father's role in the family unit and actively seek father engagement.
- Ensure cultural competency in all prevention programming.

**Goal 3: Expand Prevention Advocacy and Engagement (state and local prevention network)**

- Establish strong partnerships with all stakeholders invested in the prevention of child maltreatment.
- Coordinate statewide networking meetings for state and local providers to ensure cross system collaboration and engagement to further the child maltreatment prevention agenda.
- Sponsor training and technical assistance to child welfare and early care and education professionals on advancement and incorporation of protective factors into appropriate curriculums.
- Establish clearinghouse of child maltreatment prevention resources on the Ohio Children's Trust Fund website.
- Provide training and technical assistance to grantees to promote implementation of evidence based and/or promising practices programs and to ensure appropriate evaluation practices and techniques.

- Establish partnerships with multiple private entities to promote child maltreatment prevention.

**Goal 4: Create and maintain a strong OCTF infrastructure (money, people, processes and outcomes).**

- Deliver a statewide needs assessment that clearly identifies areas of need, target populations, and identifies successful trends in addressing the identified areas.
- Partner with public universities on evaluation.
- Develop and maintain a public/private funding portfolio to implement the strategic plan.
- Research additional sources of state revenue.
- Identify and maximize federal and state funding resources.
- Increase available leveraged funds for CAPTA Title II Grant.
- Advocate for increased state investment of available resources for prevention of child maltreatment.
- Demonstrate a commitment to Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) through implementation of a CQI system.
- Request state audit to ensure appropriate financial and programmatic accountability for public stakeholders.
- Invest in building a stable, educated and effective board.
- Build capacity for evidence based and promising practice programs in Ohio.
- Complete statewide needs assessment and logic model tied to outcomes for state and local prevention programming.
- Invest in qualitative and quantitative research of local promising practices.
- Utilize available data sets to measure impact of programming.