



BIENNIAL REPORT

2008 ■ 2009

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund





LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS



December 31, 2009

Dear Prevention Advocate,

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF), created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1984, represents Ohio's public investment in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

As child maltreatment in Ohio continues to be a serious problem, it is incumbent upon all of us to play a proactive role in preventing it. This involves moving beyond the mere recognition that child abuse and neglect should be prevented to public prioritization of and support for primary and secondary prevention policies.

The OCTF is undergoing an exciting period of growth with the appointment, in 2007, of a new Trust Fund Board, and the development of a new strategic plan that is based on an evolution in thinking about prevention efforts from a singu-

lar focus on risk factors to a holistic, strength-based approach. This new approach is detailed within a comprehensive statewide policy designed to ensure that Ohio's children live in safe, stable and nurturing families. The Trust Fund continues to be Ohio's leader in bringing prevention policies to the forefront.

We are pleased to present to you the SFY 2008-2009 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2009) OCTF biennial report.

The following pages illustrate our ongoing efforts to fulfill our mission of preventing child abuse and neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families, and safe children.

On behalf of the members of the Board and staff of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, we want to thank the numerous individuals and organizations who work along side us to protect children from abuse and neglect. We are excited to share our work with you and we wel-

come your ideas and continued involvement.

Sincerely,



Representative
Edna Brown,
Chairman



Candace Novak,
Executive Director



THE OHIO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND



About the Trust Fund

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is Ohio's sole public funding source for child abuse and neglect prevention.

Over the past two years, the Board has worked to transform the Trust Fund from simply funding Ohio's child maltreatment programs to being Ohio's leader and authority on them.

The foundation of this transformation lies within our recently adopted 2009-2014 strategic plan, which incorporates three critical areas: identifying child maltreatment as a serious public health problem, building and promoting protective factors to reduce risk factors that lead to child maltreatment and investing in evidence-informed prevention programs that are community-driven. It is through these three areas that the Trust Fund works to fulfill its mission of preventing child abuse and neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy

families and safe children.

History of the Trust Fund

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund was created in Ohio law in 1984 and is governed by an independent board consisting of eight publicly appointed members by the Governor, four legislative appointees and three cabinet directors. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) serves as the Trust Fund's administrative agent in that it provides budgetary, procurement, accounting and other related management functions.

The OCTF is governed by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) sections 3109.13 through 3109.18. The Trust Fund receives revenues from fees collected on birth and death certificates and divorce and dissolution decrees. As provided under Ohio law, the Trust Fund invests this revenue in three areas: county allocations, statewide prevention programs and initiatives and child advocacy centers (CACs).

Under Ohio law, OCTF revenue is allocated in support of primary and/or secondary prevention strategies to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Primary prevention strategies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code section 3109.13 are "*activities and services provided to the public designed to prevent or reduce the prevalence of child abuse and child neglect before signs of abuse or neglect can be observed.*"

Secondary prevention strategies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code section 3109.13 are "*activities and services that are provided to a specific population identified as having risk factors for child abuse and child neglect and are designed to intervene at the earliest warning signs of child abuse or child neglect, or whenever a child can be identified as being at risk of abuse or neglect.*"

The OCTF believes that preventing child

abuse is everyone's business. Building safe communities, strong families and healthy children depends upon having as many organizations, agencies, community groups and individuals working together as possible. It is through this collaboration that the Trust Fund works toward achieving its vision of ensuring that every child will grow up nurtured by a network of strong communities and healthy families.



REDUCING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: BUILDING PROTECTIVE FACTORS WITHIN COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



Our ultimate goal is to prevent child maltreatment before it ever occurs. By recognizing and building on existing strengths within families and communities, we effectively intervene long before risks of child abuse or neglect emerge.

Research has shown that the following protective factors are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect:

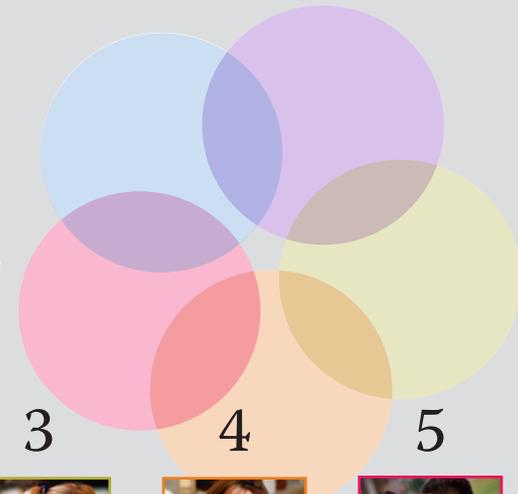
- Parental resilience.
- Knowledge of parenting and child development.
- Social and emotional competence of children.
- Concrete support in times of need.
- Social connections.

Parental resilience. This is the ability to cope and bounce back from all types of challenges. Parents who are emotionally resilient are more able to maintain a positive attitude, solve problems creatively, rise to challenges effectively, and avoid situations that compromise their child's healthy development and overall welfare.

Protective Factors

for Reducing the Risk of Child Maltreatment

A combination of these five protective factors lower the occurrence of child abuse and neglect.



1



Parental Resilience

2



Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

3



Children's Social and Emotional Development

4



Concrete Support in Times of Need

5



Social Connections

Knowledge of parenting and child development. Having accurate information about raising young children and appropriate expectations for their behavior is an important part of good parenting. Having this knowledge gives parents tools to better parent and resolve situations as they arise.

Children's social and emotional development. A child's ability to interact positively with others and communicate his or her emotions effectively is another protective factor. When this factor is developed, caregivers experience less frustration and anger.

Concrete support in times of need. This protective factor involves the financial security to cover daily living expenses and unexpected emergencies. It involves access to formal supports like Temporary Support for Needy Families (TANF) and Medicaid and informal support from social networks.

Social connections. Social connections with friends, family members, neighbors and other community members is an important protective factor. Friends and family provide emotional support and concrete assistance to parents.

The best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to help parents/caregivers develop skills and identify the resources they need to understand and meet their children's needs and protect them from

harm. The presence of these protective factors serve as buffers, helping parents/caregivers to find resources, supports or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress.

All of the programs we fund support strategies that develop and enhance these five protective factors. As you will see, our grantees have effectively built protective factors in the families they serve, strengthening all Ohio families and communities.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN: COUNTY ALLOCATIONS AND STATEWIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVES



The Trust Fund leads statewide efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect by ensuring all of our work develops and enhances the five protective factors. We work in partnership with all 88 counties and prevention partners (nonprofit organizations, state and local government and research institutions) to ensure all communities and families have the skills, education and resources they need to support the growth and development of happy, healthy children.

Approximately \$3.8 million of the Trust Fund's total annual revenue is allocated to Local Advisory Boards/Family and Children First Councils for local prevention programming. Each county is eligible to receive an allocation through a formula based on the ratio of the number of children living in each county to the number of children living in the state as defined in the most recent federal decennial census. The State Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 county allocations are displayed in Appendix 1.

The OCTF also invests in the implementation of child abuse and neglect prevention programs and services with statewide significance. The majority of our statewide prevention projects are funded through the federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Grant, with the Trust Fund being designated each year as the State Lead Agency for the grant by the Governor. The purpose of the grant is to fund community based, primary and secondary child abuse prevention programs that better strengthen and support families and communities.

This dual approach allows the Trust Fund to maximize effective use of resources and ensure valuable prevention programming reaches all of Ohio's communities.

1



protective factor #1

PARENTAL RESILIENCE

Parenthood can be overwhelming. However, parents/caregivers who cope with the stresses of everyday life, as well as an occasional crisis, have resilience; they have the flexibility and emotional strength necessary to bounce back from difficult situations. According to the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), resilient parents/caregivers are less likely to abuse or neglect their children.

The stresses of life—health problems, marital problems, financial insecurity—may reduce a parent’s/caregiver’s capacity to cope with the stresses of par-

enthood. Despite how prepared parents/caregivers are, life often takes over.

Programs that the OCTF supports help parents/caregivers develop parental resilience for the times when life takes over. All parents/caregivers have inner strengths or resources that can serve as a foundation for building their resilience. Programs we fund help parents/caregivers find and further develop these resources. Resources may include flexibility, communication skills, problem-solving skills, mutually supportive caring relationships, or the ability to identify and access outside resources

and services when needed. Through concrete skill-building activities and/or supportive interactions with others, in communities across Ohio, prevention advocates are helping parents/caregivers develop parental resilience.

PROGRAM SUCCESS



Columbus Area, Inc.,
Franklin County

Program: Parents Helping Parents

Program Description

The Parents Helping Parents (PHP) program incorporates both a home visiting component and a community-based intervention component for at-risk populations. PHP is based on four theories: 1) psychodynamic theory, 2) learning theory, 3) environmental theory and 4) ecological theory. Child abuse prevention programming is woven into the 10-week community-based parent education program, home visits and linkage and referral to community

resources. Parents are exposed to role-playing, oral presentations, written materials and discussion on various topics including understanding of how parents' actions impact children's development, self-esteem, and behavior; gaining insight into oneself; stress reduction techniques; and stages of child development.

In state fiscal year 2009, Parents Helping Parents reached 138 individuals.

Data-based Outcomes

Columbus Area, Inc., Parents Helping Parents program enrolled 138 individuals.

- 90 of the people enrolled completed the program
- 72 of those people showed improvement from pre to post test.

Participant Comments:

"I feel the curriculum was very insightful and I will be a better parent because of it."

"This class gave me a great deal of confidence in myself and my parenting skills."

Data Collection Method

The Nurturing Parenting curriculum was utilized and the assessment tool was the AAPI-2 (Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory). Pre and post test scores were compared and 72 of the individuals were able to exhibit improved scores.

2



KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Parenting education programs designed to prevent child maltreatment improve parents'/caregivers' understanding of child development and effective child management techniques. Research has shown that adults who abuse children commonly have inappropriate expectations of children's abilities and assess children's behaviors in excessively negative ways. Common stresses of child rearing, such as teething, exploratory behavior or resistance to toilet training, may even trigger harsh punishments or episodes of abuse. (Reppucci et al 1997, Chapter 3).

Knowledge of how to effectively parent and appropriate child development allow parents/caregivers to develop more appropriate expectations of their children's abilities, increase their ability to be more aware of their children's needs and strengthen their understanding that they

should respond to those needs in an appropriate manner. Children thrive when parents/caregivers provide not only affection, but also respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expectations and safe opportunities that promote independence.

Strategies that support parents/caregivers and teach positive parenting skills are very important to reducing child maltreatment. Positive parenting skills include good communication, appropriate discipline and responding to children's physical and emotional needs. Programs designed to prevent child maltreatment also improve parent-child relationships and provide parents with social support. At the local level, programs for parents/caregivers take many different forms depending on the needs of the family. The OCTF funds the following strategies: general educa-

tion programs, parent support groups, home visitation and combined education and therapy programs. These programs occur in parents' homes, in schools, in medical or mental health clinics or in other community settings. Programs either provide individualized attention or occur in group sessions.

Successful parenting fosters the healthy development of children and decreases the likelihood of abuse.

PROGRAM SUCCESS

Program Description

 Consolidated Care, Inc.,
Champaign County

Program: Active Parenting Now

Active Parenting Now is a parent education program designed for parents of children ages 5 to 12. This program helps teach parents how to raise responsible, cooperative children. This six-week program provides parents with skills to help them develop cooperation, responsibility and self-esteem in their children. Program participants also learn positive, non-violent dis-

cipline techniques so they can avoid power struggles.

In state fiscal year 2008, Active Parenting Now reached 113 parents/caregivers.

 OSU Extension,
Fulton County

Program: Parenting Wisely: Young Children

Parenting Wisely is a parent education program that reduces family conflict and child behavior problems by improving parenting skills and enhancing family communication and mutual support, supervision and discipline. OSU extension educators teach parents and children communication skills (active listening and "I" messages), assertive discipline (contracting, praise and setting consequences) and supervi-

sion (working with teachers, monitoring homework and friends). Skill practice is promoted by giving each family a workbook with practice exercises and implementation tips. The program targets parents with children 3 to 9 years of age.

In state fiscal year 2009, Parenting Wisely: Young Children reached 61 parents/caregivers.

Data-based Outcomes

- 100% of participants reported improved parenting attitudes.
- 82% of participants reported improved parenting behaviors/skills.
- 76% of participants reported improved parent observation of child's behavior.

"[Active Parenting Now] empowers parents as they learn not to take their children's behavior personally and to develop confidence that there is a way they can respond that keeps them in control."
Abby Cohn, Champaign County Family and Children First Coordinator

Data Collection Method

Active Parenting Now Pre/Post Survey

- 85% of parents/caregivers increased their knowledge of positive discipline.
- 72% of parents/caregivers increased their knowledge of child development.

Participant Comment:

"This class was great. You did not tell me that I was a bad parent. You helped me to see some things that I am doing well and some things I can change. It was good to meet with other parents going through the same things."

Self-reported Program Evaluation

PROGRAM SUCCESS

 D & E Counseling Center,
Mahoning County

Program: Incredible Years Parent
Training Program

Program Description

The evidence-based Incredible Years Parent Training Program focuses on strengthening parenting competencies (monitoring, positive discipline, confidence) and fostering parents'/caregivers' involvement in their child's lives in order to promote children's social and emotional competencies and reduce conduct problems.

Mahoning County conducted four sessions of the Incredible Years Parent Training Program: Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Winter 2009 and Spring 2009. The Winter 2009 Parent Training Program was a twelve-week group; the other three were seven-week groups. The format of these groups included videotape modeling and examples of effective/ineffective parenting styles,

presentation/lecture, group discussion and role-play and homework assignments to aid parents/caregivers in practicing effective strategies at home. The main curriculum topics were: child-directed play, social, emotional, and persistence coaching, effective praise, tangible rewards, limit-setting and effective discipline interventions. An important activity within the Parent Training Program was fostering the development of parental support systems, and knowledge of whom to call during challenging parental experiences.

In state fiscal year 2009, Incredible Years Parent Training Program reached 67 parents/caregivers. 42 families were served.

Data-based Outcomes

- 97% of parents who completed the program increased their knowledge of parent management strategies.
- 97% of parents who completed the program demonstrated improved problem-solving skills, anger management and communication skills.

Participant Comments:

"At my age, I didn't think I would have learned anything, but I learned things I had overlooked."

"I would suggest this parenting class to anyone. I will now think out the problem before I solve it."

Data Collection Method

Pre/post Survey and Parent Satisfaction Survey

3



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN

The quality of a children's relationships with their parents/caregivers has a significant impact on their social and emotional development. Infants and young children whose relationship with their parent/caregiver has been limited or disrupted find themselves at a higher risk for developmental problems, including difficulty in controlling their emotions, inability to effectively communicate their needs/wants and interacting with others in an appropriate manner.

Children who are less able to adequately express themselves (what they are feeling, what they need) through regular, healthy communication to their parents/caregivers are oftentimes more likely to act out in antisocial ways such as defying parents/caregivers or teachers or acting out inappropriately towards other children. This acting out, along with a parents'/caregivers' inability to

understand their child's feelings, needs and actions increases stress on the parent/caregiver and perpetuates a cycle of negative interactions between the parent/caregiver and child making it more likely that the parent/caregiver will act inappropriately towards their child or in an abusive manner.

Child and teen education programs that promote solid social and emotional development have been proven to help reduce child maltreatment. Many of these programs in Ohio help parents/caregivers teach their children to communicate their feelings and emotions appropriately and interact in a positive manner with others, which has been shown to reduce parental stress and other factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect. In addition, many local programs work with parents/caregivers to assist them in understanding their children's feelings

and actions as well as to teach them what constitutes appropriate parental behavior towards a child. Several local strategies provide support and services related to child development and parenting.

Cultivating and promoting social and emotional competency in children is an essential part of reducing child maltreatment.

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

 Ohio Department of Mental Health

Program: Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) initiative

Recognizing that early relationships and experiences at home and in other environments set the stage for how a child learns to manage their emotions, the OCTF partnered with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) to provide cross-system leadership in the development of the Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) initiative. This program supports evidence-based training to equip parents and caregiv-

ers of young children with the skills to help their children develop into mentally healthy individuals.

The ECMH initiative was aimed at promoting healthy social and emotional development of young children birth to six years. It focused on ensuring these children thrive by addressing their behavioral health care needs, which increased their readiness for school

COUNTY PROGRAM SUCCESS

 Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, Montgomery County

Program: Nurturing Program for Teen Parents and their Families

Program Description

The evidence-based Nurturing Program for Teen Parents curriculum is used in a home-based program in which teenage parents learn nurturing parenting routines, developmental milestones of growth, how to have fun with their children and ways to help children build their self-esteem.

The curriculum puts forth 1.5 hour sessions that meet twice a month. Teenage parents meet with the home visitor for the first hour to learn a new concept regarding self and parenting. Teenage parents and children are engaged in family nurturing time for the remaining 30 minutes.

In state fiscal year 2008, Nurturing Program for Teen Parents and their Families served 10 family units.

and later academic success. This was accomplished by building protective factors in young children's lives and increasing competencies and skills of parents and early childhood providers.

The initiative was funded via allocations provided to local mental health boards to support mental health consultation services for early childhood providers and families of young children. The

ECMH initiative also facilitated the development of community wellness and prevention activities targeting the healthy social and emotional development of infants, toddlers, young children and their families.

During the biennium, 16,000 children and 7,000 families received services through the ECMH initiative.

Data-based Outcomes

- 50% received at least 10 hours of home-based parenting education.
- 50% of the young mothers demonstrated knowledge of the typical developmental sequence for their children.
- 100% of the children were assessed to be developmentally on target.
- 70% of the young mothers demonstrated daily routines with their children that are age-appropriate.
- 80% of the young parents were receptive to the information given to them regarding the negative consequences of physical discipline and learned new and positive methods of non-violent discipline.

A teen mother who participated in the Nurturing program said she felt:

"supported and encouraged to be a better parent. My home visitor was nurturing toward me, and that helped me understand the idea of nurturing my baby."

Data Collection Method

Surveys

PROGRAM SUCCESS

 Eve Incorporated,
Washington County

Program: Strengthening Families
Program for Parents and Youth 10-14

Program Description

The Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 is an evidence-based parent, youth and family skills building curriculum designed to strengthen parenting skills and build family strengths by helping them grow and learn together through highly interactive sessions. The program is delivered in seven two-hour sessions using videos portraying typical youth and parent situations. Parents/caregivers and youth meet in separate groups

for the first hour and together as families during the second hour to practice skills and work on family projects. Eve Incorporated provided two full sessions of the program (one in the fall and one in the winter/spring). Each session was followed-up by a booster session.

In state fiscal year 2009, Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14 reached 16 children, 17 parents/caregivers and 12 families.

Data-based Outcomes

- 81% of youth who completed the program indicated a supportive family environment.
- 90% of parents/caregivers who completed the program demonstrated effective monitoring skills.

Participant Comments:

"This has been a great experience. I wish it were a little longer."

"I would recommend this program to other families. Thank you!"

Data Collection Method

Pre/post Survey and Parent Satisfaction Survey

4



CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

Parents need basic resources such as food, clothing and housing as well as access to the essential services that meet their specific needs in order to ensure the health and safety of their children. When these basic resources are lacking and the essential services a family needs are missing, there is an increased risk of child abuse and neglect.

In many cases, families are unaware of the existing community resources that can assist them in meeting their basic needs or how to access these resources. Some families are unable to reach out to existing resources due to financial inse-

curity, lack of transportation, etc. Other families, who may be aware of existing resources and may even know of some ways to access them are hesitant to do so if those services have a stigma associated with them.

Determining what basic resources are available in the community and how to access them to address the needs of a family can go a long way in enabling that family to cope with crisis and prevent situations where child maltreatment could occur. Many Ohio programs provide individualized services that address family-specific needs. Many local pro-

grams provide direct, in-home service to families to help minimize stress, ensure basic needs are met and connect families to the resources they need, particularly when they are in crisis.

Ensuring awareness of and access to essential support services will enable families to better care for their children as well as handle additional stressors that can often lead to child abuse and neglect.

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

 Ohio Department of Health

Program: Parents as Teachers

Parents/caregivers, as the child's first and most important teachers, play a critical role in the development of their children. However, many parents/caregivers are unaware of typical developmental milestones and have many behavioral and developmental questions. They often do not know where to go to find answers to these questions or how to access the resources that do exist. As a result, the OCTF partnered with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to provide child development information and behavior strategy information to parents/caregivers on home visits and/or in a relaxed group setting that is non-threatening and conducive to learning. This program is research-based and has positive outcome data

related to increasing parental/caregiver knowledge of child development and behavior.

This program utilized two distinct strategies. The first strategy targeted parents of children from birth to age five to receive education and support regarding the healthy development of their children using the Parent as Teachers (PAT) curriculum. Parents as Teachers utilizes a strengths model, recognizing parents/caregivers as their child's first teacher and focusing on parents/caregivers as active participants in the learning process. By providing both education and support, nationally certified Parent as Teachers Parent Educators helped parents/care-

COUNTY PROGRAM SUCCESS

 Child Focus Incorporated,
Clermont County

Program: Home Visitor Program for children 0-12 years old

Program Description

The Home Visitor Program is a 10-week parent education and training program consisting of weekly in-home direct services targeted at improving childrearing practices, increasing parents'/caregivers' knowledge of child development, establishing structure, safety and daily routines in the home and increasing family resources and supports.

The Home Visitor works with parents/caregivers in the program on developing the skills necessary for dealing with additional stressors that may increase the risk of child abuse and/or neglect.

In state fiscal year 2009, Home Visitor Program for children 0-12 years old served 85 children, 46 parents/caregivers and 34 families.

givers feel more confident in their knowledge of child development and to develop skills to promote their child's well-being. OCTF funding provided an opportunity for current field study participants to continue their parenting education series and allowed for the expansion of Parents as Teachers parent education group sessions to additional counties.

The second strategy targeted children, age three, exiting the Help Me Grow Program without services or support in place and who do not have a sibling under age three receiving services through Help Me Grow. Out of the approximate 10,000 children exiting Help Me Grow services each year, approxi-

mately 30% continue with services such as special preschool programs, MRDD preschool and Head Start. However, the vast majority—70%—“fall off the cliff” of services and supports. Just as parents/caregivers of children 0-3 seek information on typical developmental milestones and answers to behavioral and developmental questions, so do parents of three year olds. Through home visits that provide both education and support, nationally certified Parent as Teachers Parent Educators help parents/caregivers feel confident in their knowledge of child development and development of skills to promote their child's well-being.

From August 2008 – June 30, 2009,

1,583 children and 1,103 parents/caregivers were provided parenting education during 119 sessions in Ashtabula, Hamilton, Harrison, Erie/Huron, Logan, Mahoning and Trumbull counties. Additionally, 767 home visits were made to families with at least one eligible child. Also during the same time period, 324 professionals were trained during 13 Parents as Teachers professional training sessions. Outreach effort reached 897 professionals and parents at various community agencies and events and 630 children attended the outreach efforts which included county fairs, literacy events and holiday parties.

Data-based Outcomes

- 91% of participating parents demonstrated improvement in one or more Adolescent-Adult Parenting Inventory (AAPI) areas.
- 100% of participating parents showed an increase in family resources.
- 74% of participating parents increased age- and developmentally-appropriate toys and activities in the home.
- 70% of participating parents increased social supports to assist with child rearing needs.
- 67% of participating parents improved access to mental health services.
- 63% of participating parents increased health care for their children.
- 64% of participating parents implemented daily routines and schedules within the home.
- 33% of participating parents enrolled their child in a child care or child development program.

Data Collection Method

Pre/Post Test using the Adolescent-Adult Parenting Inventory (AAPI) and parent satisfaction surveys

COUNTY PROGRAM SUCCESS

Program Description



Personal and Family Counseling Services of Tuscarawas Valley, Inc., Tuscarawas County

Program: Positive Parenting Program/
Home Visitation

The Positive Parenting Program is an evidence based multi-level parenting and family support program designed to prevent child maltreatment by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents/caregivers.

Under this program, a parent educator provides weekly to biweekly instructional home visits to at least 100 at-risk parents/caregivers each year. Home visits include information and education regarding non-violent methods of discipline, age-appropriate expectations for behavior, stress management, problem-solving skills, household management, community services and appropriate child rearing practices. All services are client-driven and individualized for each participating family.

In state fiscal year 2008, with Positive Parenting Program/Home Visitation 112 parents/caregivers received 323 home visits.

Data-based Outcomes

- 84.5% of parents reported a reduction in the frequency of their child's problem behaviors.
- 85% of parents served reported enhanced parent-child relationships as evidenced by increased numbers of positive parent-child interactions.
- 92% of parents served reported an increase in their understanding and knowledge of child development and age-appropriate behaviors.
- 82.75% of parents served reported an increase in their knowledge and use of community resources.
- 87.75% of parents served reported a decrease in the use of physical punishment as a primary means of discipline

Participant Comment:

"The Home Visitor helped me learn patience, play-time activities, learning/teaching skills and more. The home visitor has been wonderful. We have enjoyed her in our home for the last three months and have benefited so much from knowing her."

Data Collection Method

Likert Scales and Client Satisfaction Survey

5



SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

According to the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), over three decades of research have demonstrated that parents/caregivers who are isolated, with few social connections, are at higher risk for child abuse and neglect. Parents/caregivers lacking positive connections with individuals with pro-social, child-friendly values suffer from familial isolation, stress and a lack of support. While parents/caregivers with a social network of emotionally supportive friends, family and neighbors often find that it is easier to care for their children and themselves, most parents/caregivers need people they can call on once in a while when

they need a sympathetic listener, advice or concrete support. These supportive adults serve as a much needed resource in stressful situations.

Statewide, we are supporting programs that serve as this much-needed resource by building social connections both at the individual and community level. Programs differ from community to community, but all embody three common elements:

1. Uniquely intimate relationship with families.
2. A pro-social, child-friendly culture.

3. High degree of personalized, flexible and integrated support mechanisms they provide to families.

Increasing the social connections of parents/caregivers helps prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families' networks of informal social supports and increasing the level of social capital within communities across Ohio.

COUNTY PROGRAM SUCCESS

Program Description



Goodrich-Gannett
Neighborhood Center,
Cuyahoga County

Program: Nurturing Healthy Families

Nurturing Healthy Families provides families with activities designed to promote healthy family function and strengthen parents'/caregivers' social support networks. Programming helps to connect families with each other and community organizations. Parents/caregivers with strong connection to peers and organizations are less likely to experience stress and isolation and may be more likely to seek help when needed.

In state fiscal year 2008, Nurturing Healthy Families reached 104 adults including 27 fathers/men.

Data-based Outcomes

- 97% of participants reported that events provided them with the opportunity for quality interactions with their children.
- 95% of participants reported that they felt the events would help strengthen their relationship with their children.
- 98% of participants reported that the events gave them a good opportunity to meet other parents and families.

Participant Comment:

"I enjoyed meeting the people in the groups. It was helpful to have a parent to talk to."

Data Collection Method

Self Reported Program Evaluations

COUNTY PROGRAM SUCCESS

Program Description

 4C for Children,
Hamilton County

Program: Strengthening Families
through Early Care and Education

Strengthening Families strives to ensure the wellness of children by strengthening parent networks and supports, increasing access to family resources and knowledge of effective child-rearing practices and ensuring the wellness of children through the development of early childhood interventions and resources. It is an evidenced-based, multi-layered approach. The overall goal of this initiative is to increase community awareness and responsiveness to families thereby decreasing the reported incidences of child abuse and/or neglect in the area by introducing and supporting protective factors for children ages zero through six.

The Strengthening Families Initiative (SFI) is being delivered within the Westwood and Cheviot communities of the 45211 zip code area. These communities were selected for the initiative by the Hamilton County Families and Children First Council as the area demon-

strated an increased need for support and intervention, based upon growing reports of child abuse and neglect and the large number of children under the age of six. These protective factors are being introduced and supported within the targeted neighborhoods through the creation and delivery of a community awareness campaign and the implementation of the Strengthening Families approach in early childhood settings.

In state fiscal year 2009, 4,638 parents/caregivers received information on Strengthening Families and ways to decrease child abuse and neglect through community awareness campaign efforts. 30 parents/caregivers received training in Strengthening Families and served on Parent Advisory group and as facilitators for Parent Cafés. 14 Family Child Care Providers received technical assistance coaching/training and participated in Learning Network meetings.

Data-based Outcomes

- 98.42% of Westwood and Cheviot early childhood providers demonstrated knowledge of protective factors and effective parenting skills.
- 98.42% of Westwood and Cheviot early childhood providers indicated that they learned new skills to engage parents with 98% indicating they were likely to use these skills.
- 82.85% of early childhood providers demonstrated increased knowledge of the protective factors.
- 33.2% of parents surveyed utilized community/local resources.
- 93 Early Childhood Center Directors and Staff received technical assistance coaching/training and participated in Learning Network meetings.

"The Strengthening Families initiative provides an awesome learning experience... it's warm, inviting and well organized. I think it will benefit our center by getting parents more involved and providing them with a chance to learn about parenting from other parents. It has helped us think about parents differently."
Kelli Banks, Assistant Director of St. James Day Care Center

"When we did the first Parent Café I didn't expect any results and really didn't even think parents would talk...but what happened that night touched my heart...to see parents interacting, talking and sharing phone numbers. It was amazing to me what happened in that little bit of time...the connection and what happened between those parents brought tears to my eyes."
Wilda Evans, family child care provider, parent facilitator of Parent Cafés

Data Collection Method

Pre and Post tests administered to parents and early childhood providers who participate in parent events and SFI trainings.



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS



Child advocacy centers employ a comprehensive multidisciplinary team approach to managing the process of investigating the causes of potential child abuse and neglect in one-stop, child-friendly locations that are specifically designed to promote sound investigations, reduce subsequent trauma for children and provide seamless services for the victims of child maltreatment and their families.

Many of Ohio's child advocacy centers also provide primary child abuse and neglect prevention programs and services including community awareness and education along with resources, support and training.

The OCTF invests in the development and implementation of primary child abuse and neglect prevention programs and services within Ohio's child advocacy centers.

Child advocacy centers may apply to the OCTF for one-time start-up costs if its planned delivery of services include primary prevention strategies. In addition, child advocacy centers may annually request funds from the OCTF to conduct primary prevention strategies.

The following child advocacy centers received start-up funds from the OCTF:

Fairfield County - \$5,000.00 (SFY 2008)

Warren County - \$5,000.00 (SFY 2008)

Henry County - \$4,987.00 (SFY 2009)

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

■ Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

Program: Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children

In state fiscal year (SFY) 2009, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund contracted with the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to provide statewide training on Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children. This curriculum is an innovative sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse and then motivates them to action. We are very excited to be one of the first states to provide Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children statewide.

Trained facilitators provide training

to organizations and corporations who seek training for staff and volunteers on the prevention of child sexual abuse, by community and civic groups who desire to educate and empower adults in protecting children. After training, participants have an understanding of the facts of child sexual abuse, including incidence rates and effects on individuals and society. The program is designed to teach participants to understand how child sexual abuse happens, and to understand that adults are responsible for the protection of children.

Another important aspect of the Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children program is the focus on community responsibility, including child protection as a part of standard policy and operating procedures of every organization. For example, participants learn the importance of screening all staff and volunteers who work with children and adolescents. Participants also learn the importance of a well-developed one-adult / one-child policy. The training assists organizations in acquiring the resources to react responsibly to incidents of child sexual abuse. The curriculum ensures that participants understand the proactive role youth-serving organizations need to take to protect children and educate their communities about

child sexual abuse.

In addition to training facilitators on the curriculum, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, through its partnership with the Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers, is providing two continuing education workshops for Stewards of Children facilitators who have been trained as a result of this grant. These workshops provide additional training and technical assistance to facilitators, as well as provide an opportunity to share individual ideas and experiences.

In the second half of SFY 2009, the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers provided 76 facilitator trainings, which resulted in 1,100 individuals receiving Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children training.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH



Preventing child abuse is everyone's business. Building safe communities, strong families and healthy children depends upon having as many organizations, agencies, community groups and individuals working together as possible. It is only when the well-being of children and families becomes the priority of everyone in a community, the number of child abuse and neglect incidences will decrease.

One way in which the Trust Fund garners community support and partnerships is through Child Abuse Prevention Month campaigns. Public awareness helps create community support and partnerships that further our goal of preventing child abuse and neglect.

A Month of Awareness

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each April the Ohio Children's Trust Fund sponsors a public awareness campaign encouraging indi-

viduals and organizations to play a role in making their community a better place for families. By ensuring that parents have knowledge, skills and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and communities.

April 2008

Ohio's April 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Month activities were simultaneously sponsored at both state and county levels. Promotion of the 2008 statewide prevention theme "*You are the Key to Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect*" was, by design, a message intended to promote personal action to prevent child maltreatment. The Trust Fund participated in print and radio interviews and distributed educational materials such as bookmarks and the "*Parent Pledge*" that contained suggested activities Ohioans can do in the course of their everyday lives to promote strong families and

prevent child abuse and neglect.

In addition to promoting public awareness, the Trust Fund actively engaged with policymakers as part of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month to underscore the importance of prevention as a critical component of child welfare. The Trust Fund worked with Governor Strickland on issuing a proclamation officially recognizing April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Ohio. In addition, the Trust Fund hosted two days of legislative visits with members of the General Assembly.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month is recognized at the national, state and local level. To assist communities in hosting recognition events, the Trust Fund Board voted to provide \$2,000 to each public children services agency for their April efforts.

In April 2008, the OCTF also hosted the fourth annual Beyond the Blue Ribbon

luncheon and awards ceremony. This event is held to publicly recognize Ohioans for their contribution to preventing child abuse and neglect. The award went to two outstanding prevention professionals and an outstanding prevention volunteer.

Held in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Ohio, the OCTF co-sponsored the annual Protecting Ohio's Children conference. This conference is directed to professionals and child advocates and has attracted an annual average of over 200 participants over the past three years. Following an opening plenary with a nationally recognized expert, a variety of breakout sessions were offered addressing multiple aspects of prevention and family support.

April 2009

Beginning in April of 2009, the Trust Fund sponsored a new statewide awareness campaign with the message "Strong Communities, Healthy Families, Safe Children." Our message was intended to reinforce that every member of the community has a responsibility to ensure that children grow up safe, healthy and happy. The 2009 campaign encourages individuals and organizations to help strengthen their community by ensuring parents have the knowledge, skills, resources and support they need in order to care for their children. By ensuring parents are supported, we can help prevent child

abuse and neglect.

The month was kicked off by Governor Strickland, who issued an official proclamation declaring April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Ohio. Similar resolutions followed from the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. The Trust Fund sponsored its message on large displays in state office buildings, including the Governor's Office and the Ohio Statehouse. The displays included bookmarks for distribution that included information on how to take action and get involved in the prevention of child abuse.

Ohio's statewide prevention theme "Strong Communities, Healthy Families, Safe Children" promoted personal action to prevent child maltreatment. The Trust Fund distributed additional educational and awareness materials—such as the Blue Ribbon pin—to many of our county partners. These awareness materials included suggested activities Ohioans can do in the course of their everyday lives to promote strong families and prevent child abuse and neglect. This message was reinforced through press releases and public service announcements that aired on radio stations statewide during the month of April.

In April 2009, the Trust Fund once again allocated \$2,000 to every county public children service agency in order to assist their April recognition efforts.

The end of Child Abuse Prevention Month 2009 was marked with the Trust Fund's co-sponsorship of the annual Protecting Ohio's Children conference.

FINANCIAL REPORT



The following is a summary of the financial activities of the Trust Fund account in SFY 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) and SFY 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).

By state statute, Trust Fund revenues are derived from a \$3 fee on birth and death certificates and an \$11 fee on divorce and dissolution filings. The OCTF distributes approximately \$3.8 million dollars annually to the local Family and Children First Council's and Local Advisory Boards for prevention efforts at the local level. Remaining funds are dedicated to the Trust Fund's statewide prevention initiatives.

¹ Appropriation authority is set by the Office of Budget and Management

	SFY 2008	SFY 2009
State Special Revenue		
Opening Cash Balance	\$7,141,381.34	\$5,207,659.42
Appropriation Authorization ¹	\$6,788,522.00	\$6,788,522.00
Revenue Breakdown		
Birth/Death Certificate Fees	\$3,485,018.49	\$3,358,695.10
Divorce/Dissolution Fees	\$459,941.32	\$442,637.55
Refunds (Prior Biennium)	\$76,153.40	\$88,206.08
Total Revenue	\$4,021,113.21	\$3,889,538.73
<i>Total Cash Available for SFY 2008</i>	<i>\$11,162,494.55</i>	<i>\$10,589,854.65</i>
Expenditures		
Program & Services Contracts	\$4,199,178.40	\$4,298,847.00
Payroll	\$214,579.89	\$258,268.00
Maintenance/Equipment	\$7,533.84	\$11,166.00
Total Expenses	\$4,421,292.13	\$4,568,281.00
Earmark to Department of Youth Services	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$5,954,772.13</i>	<i>\$6,068,281.00</i>
Federal Funds		
Appropriation Authorization	\$2,040,524.00	\$2,040,524.00
Revenue Breakdown		
CBCAP Award FFY 07	\$1,181,298.00	\$1,286,562.00
Expenditures		
Program Services Contracts	\$ 661,896.00	\$ 61,916.00



2009 BOARD MEMBERS

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State Representative
48th Ohio House District

Crystal Ward Allen, *Vice-Chairman*
Executive Director, Public Children
Services Association of Ohio

Ericka Thoms, JD, *Treasurer*
Policy Associate
Voices for Ohio's Children

Anthony Trotman
Chief of Staff, Ohio Department
of Job and Family Services

Jeff Wagner
State Representative
81st Ohio House District

Angela Dawson
Director, Ohio Department of
Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services

Mary Deel
Language Arts Teacher
National Board Certified
Gallia County Local Schools

Kirk Schuring
State Senator
29th Ohio Senate District

Karen Hughes
Chief, Division of Family and
Community Health Services
Ohio Department of Health

Nina Turner
State Senator
25th Ohio Senate District

Frank Putnam, MD
Director
The Mayerson Center for Safe
and Healthy Children
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Kelly Lynch
Director, Guernsey County
Children Services Board

Lisa McDuffie
President and CEO
YWCA of Greater Toledo

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29th Ohio Senate District

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Community Health Services
Ohio Department of Health

Eric Kearney
State Senator
9th Ohio Senate District

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Cincinnati Children's Hospital

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Director, Guernsey County
Children Services Board

Lisa McDuffie
President and CEO
YWCA of Greater Toledo

Arlene Jones
Foster Youth Advisor
Public Children Services
Association of Ohio

Gene Kelly
Sheriff
Clark County Sheriff's Office



APPENDIX 1: COUNTY ALLOCATION CHART SFY 2008 – SFY 2009

COUNTY	Population Under Age 18	Population Percent	Funds Allocation
Adams	7,202	0.2493%	\$15,000
Allen	28,092	0.9726%	\$35,438
Ashland	13,522	0.4682%	\$17,058
Ashtabula	26,865	0.9301%	\$33,890
Athens	11,411	0.3951%	\$15,000
Auglaize	12,873	0.4457%	\$16,239
Belmont	15,284	0.5292%	\$19,281
Brown	11,668	0.4040%	\$15,000
Butler	86,296	2.9877%	\$108,862
Carroll	7,252	0.2511%	\$15,000
Champaign	10,177	0.3523%	\$15,000
Clark	36,353	1.2586%	\$45,859
Clermont	49,696	1.7206%	\$62,691
Clinton	10,703	0.3706%	\$15,000
Columbiana	27,268	0.9441%	\$34,399
Coshocton	9,617	0.3330%	\$15,000
Crawford	11,714	0.4056%	\$15,000
Cuyahoga	347,990	12.0481%	\$438,989
Darke	14,013	0.4852%	\$17,677
Defiance	10,483	0.3629%	\$15,000
Delaware	31,061	1.0754%	\$39,183

Per Ohio Revised Code 3109.17 (B)(5), the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board shall allocate funds to each child abuse and child neglect advisory board for the purpose of funding child abuse and child neglect prevention programs. Funds shall be allocated among advisory boards according to a formula based on the ratio of the number of children under age 18 in the county or multicounty district to the number of children under age eighteen in the state, as shown in the most recent federal decennial census of population.

COUNTY	Population Under Age 18	Population Percent	Funds Allocation
Erie	19,662	0.6807%	\$24,804
Fairfield	32,875	1.1382%	\$41,472
Fayette	7,208	0.2496%	\$15,000
Franklin	268,321	9.2898%	\$338,487
Fulton	11,891	0.4117%	\$15,000
Gallia	7,771	0.2690%	\$15,000
Geauga	25,783	0.8927%	\$32,525
Greene	35,359	1.2242%	\$44,605
Guernsey	10,675	0.3696%	\$15,000
Hamilton	218,174	7.5536%	\$275,226
Hancock	18,340	0.6350%	\$23,136
Hardin	7,769	0.2690%	\$15,000
Harrison	3,647	0.1263%	\$15,000
Henry	8,050	0.2787%	\$15,000
Highland	11,030	0.3819%	\$15,000
Hocking	7,189	0.2489%	\$15,000
Holmes	13,857	0.4798%	\$17,481
Huron	16,820	0.5823%	\$21,218
Jackson	8,481	0.2936%	\$15,000
Jefferson	15,821	0.5478%	\$19,958
Knox	13,512	0.4678%	\$17,045
Lake	55,036	1.9055%	\$69,428
Lawrence	15,270	0.5287%	\$19,263
Licking	37,834	1.3099%	\$47,728
Logan	12,276	0.4250%	\$15,486
Lorain	74,550	2.5811%	\$94,045
Lucas	119,481	4.1367%	\$150,725
Madison	9,926	0.3437%	\$15,000
Mahoning	61,149	2.1171%	\$77,139
Marion	16,193	0.5606%	\$20,427
Medina	41,531	1.4379%	\$52,391

COUNTY	Population Under Age 18	Population Percent	Funds Allocation
Meigs	5,518	0.1910%	\$15,000
Mercer	12,116	0.4195%	\$15,284
Miami	25,638	0.8876%	\$32,342
Monroe	3,581	0.1240%	\$15,000
Montgomery	137,979	4.7771%	\$174,060
Morgan	3,768	0.1305%	\$15,000
Morrow	8,641	0.2992%	\$15,000
Muskingum	21,930	0.7593%	\$27,665
Noble	3,180	0.1101%	\$15,000
Ottawa	9,542	0.3304%	\$15,000
Paulding	5,436	0.1882%	\$15,000
Perry	9,584	0.3318%	\$15,000
Pickaway	12,787	0.4427%	\$16,131
Pike	7,522	0.2604%	\$15,000
Portage	36,109	1.2502%	\$45,551
Preble	11,027	0.3818%	\$15,000
Putnam	10,316	0.3572%	\$15,000
Richland	32,013	1.1084%	\$40,384
Ross	17,598	0.6093%	\$22,200
Sandusky	16,168	0.5598%	\$20,396
Scioto	19,348	0.6699%	\$24,407
Seneca	15,233	0.5274%	\$19,216
Shelby	13,686	0.4738%	\$17,265
Stark	93,936	3.2522%	\$118,500
Summit	135,986	4.7081%	\$171,546
Trumbull	54,820	1.8980%	\$69,155
Tuscarawas	23,095	0.7996%	\$29,134
Union	11,297	0.3911%	\$15,000
Van Wert	7,719	0.2672%	\$15,000
Vinton	3,446	0.1193%	\$15,000
Warren	43,918	1.5205%	\$55,403

COUNTY	Population Under Age 18	Population Percent	Funds Allocation
Washington	14,891	0.5156%	\$18,785
Wayne	30,623	1.0602%	\$38,631
Williams	10,263	0.3553%	\$15,000
Wood	28,684	0.9931%	\$36,185
Wyandot	5,920	0.2050%	\$15,000
TOTALS	2,888,339	100.0006%	\$3,804,395



APPENDIX 2: REFERENCES

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