

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



OTTAWA COUNTY
Family & Children
First Council

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Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

Ottawa County Family & Children First Council leads a collaboration of families, community, and government to help prevent and solve problems within both family-serving systems and individual family units in Ottawa County.

OUR PARTNERS

- Parent Representatives
- Benton Carroll Salem Schools
- City of Port Clinton
- Danbury Local Schools
- Department of Youth Services
- East Toledo Family Center
- Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Joyful Connections
- Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties
- North Point Educational Service Center
- Oak House
- OSU Extension - Ottawa County
- Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
- Ottawa County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Ottawa County Department of Job & Family Services
- Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center
- Ottawa County Health Department
- Ottawa County Juvenile and Probate Court
- Port Clinton City Schools
- Put-In-Bay Schools
- United Way of Ottawa County

OUR SHARED PRIORITIES



Enhanced Service Coordination with increased awareness and utilization of services and the development of a robust wraparound process that leads families to improved family functioning measured by increasing the number of families enrolled in service coordination and wraparound with OCFCFC and OhioRISE, increasing the number of children enrolled in Early Intervention, number of youth remaining in the home, the number of kinship placements utilized and the percent of children in Ottawa County in poverty.



Prevent children's exposure to trauma and violence, mitigate negative affects experienced by exposure to trauma and increase knowledge and awareness of the issue by ensuring children who have been exposed to adverse events receive support and have opportunities to build resilience through positive relationships with teachers and first responders.



Build a strong and high functioning FCFC by strengthening and improving the FCFC through new cross-system initiatives, increasing revenue, improving council attendance and ensuring parent representation on committees and partnerships.

OUR INITIATIVES



The Early Childhood Collaborating Committee promotes positive, healthy early childhood experiences by identifying early childhood needs, coordinating existing services and supports and finding solutions for families in Ottawa County communities so that children are prepared for success in school and life.



Ottawa County No Wrong Door Training is an opportunity for frontline workers who regularly encounter individuals in crisis to enhance their skills in interacting with people during critical times and to learn about numerous resources and agencies in our county to enable warm referrals.



Ottawa County Community Day is a free annual wellness event that is not only a fun day with food, games, activities, giveaways, and prizes, but also a time for community members of all ages to learn about available resources and get to know the agencies who can help their families to thrive.



The CARA Task Force works to support pregnant women in households with known substance use by educating them about the risks of fetal and infant substance exposure and ensuring medical and mental health providers are proficient at creating and monitoring plans of safe care.



Happy Hive Family Play Group connects families of young children, creating healthy friendships, promoting the importance of regular attendance, enhancing parenting skills, socializing young children, and identifying developmental delays early.



The Ottawa County Housing Coalition brings together agencies who work with families in crisis to identify and reduce barriers to accessing housing assistance and other necessary services.



The Community Baby Shower gathers expectant moms and families of young children to provide concrete and educational supports and link them to resources that can help Ottawa County families to raise happy and healthy children.



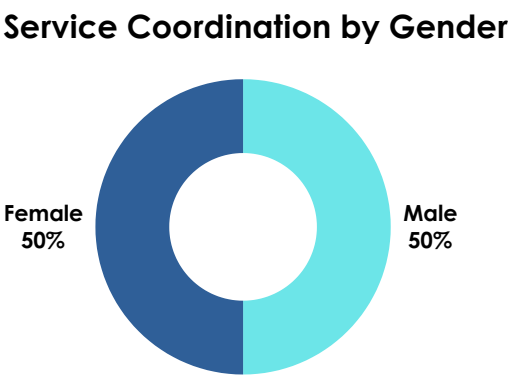
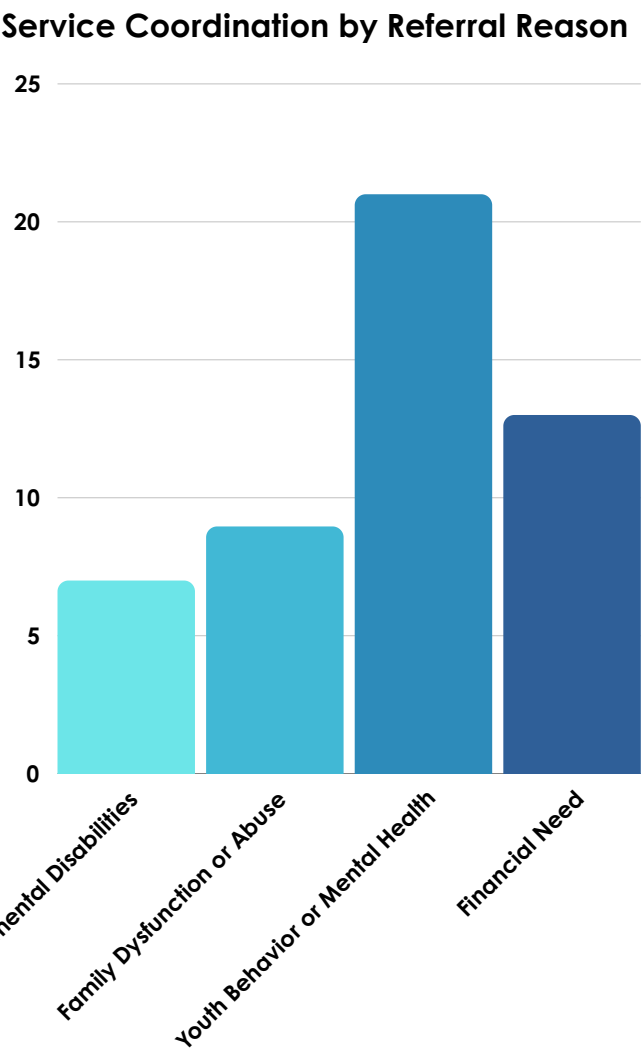
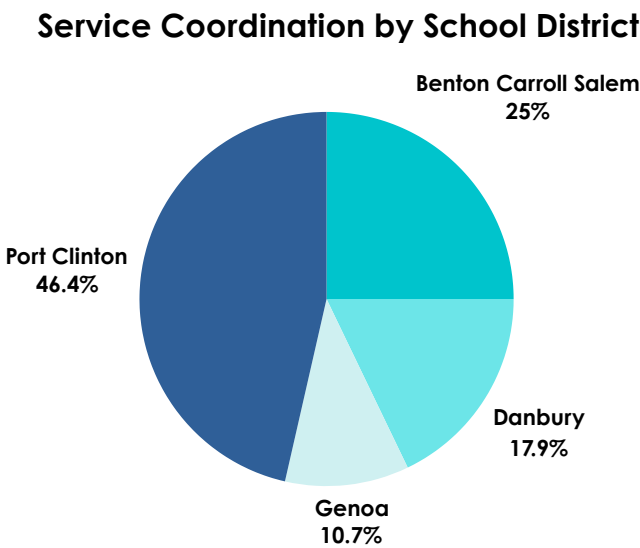
The Grand Love Respite Program offers enrichment opportunities for youth who are being raised by grandparents or other family members, and respite for those raising them.

SERVICE COORDINATION

Ottawa County FCFC provides Service Coordination, a process to help families who require collaboration between agencies and systems to overcome obstacles and to assist families to build a system of natural supports to help them maintain independence from agency involvement, even after they are no longer engaged in services. The service coordination process will not only provide access to existing services and supports, but to think outside of the box to propose new services, supports and strategies to help address a youth's or family's needs that are currently unable to be addressed within local systems.

Service coordination is an approach to planning that provides child-centered and family-focused services, allowing the strengths and needs of the child and family to tailor the process to each individual family.

Ottawa County FCFC provided Service Coordination to 28 youth and their families in 2024.



OUR NUMBERS



In 2024, Ottawa County Family & Children First Council was funded through a combination of state and federal grants, levy funds, and local contributions.

