



OFCFCA
**Promoting healthy children, strong families,
and thriving communities county by county.**



COUNTY: CLARK

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

Clark County is a place where families, children, and adults live in safe, healthy neighborhoods, value each other, and succeed in school, the workplace, and life. We believe that: families can be productive, self-reliant, nurturing and accountable; and, communities can encourage and support family stability and hold families accountable. We provide leadership to empower families and foster environments where: all families can have adequate food, clothing, shelter and healthcare; all children can live in a home environment that is supportive, non-violent, and free of drug and alcohol abuse; marriage relationships can be strengthened, and fathers can be an active part of the family; all children can live in neighborhoods that are safe, secure and supportive; families can have opportunities for jobs that provide adequate income to meet their basic needs; and, all children can be in school every school day ready to learn. Clark County Family and Children First Council provides the necessary means - by collaborating, coordinating and advocating for services - to assist children and families to achieve their potential. By maximizing resources and improving access to and coordination of services, the Council takes a lead role in the strategic partnering of funding sources, service providers, families and the community to achieve its vision.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Clark FCFC is a regional council of governments operated by a 17 member Board of Trustees according to By-laws first adopted in 1996. The 11 member Executive Committee includes all Funders of Clark FCFC, all members representing school districts and the entity representing nonprofit providers. Clark County Department of Job and Family Services functions as Administrative Agent for Clark FCFC. The duties and responsibilities of Clark FCFC are carried out through two standing committees: Clark County Interagency Cluster and Clark County Child and Family Collaborative (Early Childhood Coordinating Committee).

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Clark FCFC provided leadership along with the Funders Forum during the Partnerships for Success strategic planning process. Strategies have been implemented to address School Success and Violence. Clark FCFC's Annual Plan in response to OFCF and Amended Sub. H.B. 289 focuses on Children Ready for School, specifically Readiness for Kindergarten with a focus on literacy skills. Clark FCFC aligns its work related to Readiness for Kindergarten with that of Clark County's Aspire P-16 Collaborative.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Clark FCFC brings together primary child and family serving systems including child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, health, developmental disabilities and schools through several cross-system processes including: Cluster Supervisors Group, Family Stability Committee and Interagency Review Committee. Clark FCFC promotes an evidence-based model of Wraparound. During FY09 214 children were served through Clark FCFC Service Coordination.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Clark FCFC promotes family voice and choice at all levels of the child and family service system. The Help Me Grow family support group, K.I.T. (Keeping It Together) meets monthly. Families have developed a website for sharing resource information. A Family Representative is included on the Family Stability Committee.

- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Clark FCFC implements the Help Me Grow program county-wide through a contract with the Clark County Combined Health District. Services are also provided via subcontract by the Clark County Board of MRDD, the Mercy Parent-Infant Center (Community Mercy Health Partners), and Springfield City Schools. No direct services are provided by Clark FCFC. Clark County currently meets or exceeds all Help Me Grow performance and compliance factors. During the most recent program year 514 newborn homevisits were provided and 494 infants and toddlers and their families were served daily.

LOCAL CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND RESPONSIBILITIES (As Applicable):

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Clark FCFC serves by appointment of the Board of Clark County Commissioners as the OCTF Local Advisory Board. The FY10 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan includes strategies that seek to assure that: first time parents have knowledge of infant care. Two community organizations receiving funding for activities related to these outcomes, providing Newborn Home Visits and Incredible Years parenting education.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Clark FCFC has developed and sustained the Together We Grow public awareness campaign to increase understanding in the community of the importance of the first three years of a child's life. Clark FCFC has provided leadership in the development of the Aspire P-16 Collaborative focused on Kindergarten Readiness, High School Graduation, and Continuing Education and Training after Graduation. Clark FCFC has developed and maintained a continuum of behavioral health services for children through local resources supplemented by state funding through the A.B.C. (Access to Better Care) initiative, including an array of early childhood mental health programs.

FUNDING:

Clark FCFC Funders contribute more than \$1,400,000 in local funding annually to support a continuum of services for children and families. The total Clark FCFC budget including these local pooled funds, Help Me Grow and other state and federal funding exceeded \$2,600,000 in SFY09.

STAFFING:

Clark FCFC has 1 full time Coordinator and 1 part time Administrative Secretary employed by FCFC through its Administrative Agent. Office space and related supports are provided in-kind by the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services. The budget for Clark FCFC administration is less than \$120,000.

CHALLENGES:

Clark FCFC and its member systems experience increasing need for flexible funding in order to balance the competing needs of children and families ranging from prevention to intensive treatment while implementing evidence-base programs to meet those needs. The constraints imposed by the SFY10&11 state budget threaten the welfare of children and families in Clark County as well as the collaborative relationships between and among the FCFC member systems.

FUTURE PLANS:

Clark FCFC will continue through its standing committees work begun toward meeting Ohio's Commitments to Child Wellbeing.

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