



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



COUNTY: FAYETTE

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The Fayette County Family and Children First Council believes that the well-being of children and families, present and future, depends upon a mutually responsible collaboration of individuals, families, service providers and all sectors of the community. These collaborative efforts and commitments will provide opportunities for children and families to become self-sustaining, autonomous members of their community.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

The Fayette County Family and Children First Council has 36 members and many other non-appointed volunteers and agency personnel in the community who have a commitment to increasing child well being. There are nine committees within the Council who recommend and implement ideas and strategies, assess needs and identify ways that will improve and strengthen the family unit and the children in the community.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
The Fayette County FCFC works and collaborates with the local agencies in the community to build operational capacity.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
The Fayette County FCFC works with Job and Family Services, the Fayette County Health Department, MR/DD, ADAMHS, Juvenile Court, public school systems and education and other systems for the purpose of providing service coordination to the families and children. These community agencies and organizations are involved in coordination and alignment of resources. Referrals are made through the agencies and all collaborate for positive outcomes.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
The Fayette County FCFC works with the health and human services agencies in Fayette County to advocate on behalf of families and children in our community. We believe it is imperative for families to be active, involved and contributing members on our Family and Children First Council.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Help Me Grow is a Family and Children First initiative. The Help Me Grow Program in Fayette County serves expectant parents, newborns, infants and toddlers and provides health and developmental services. Family and Children First does not provide direct services for Help Me Grow. HMG provides services to 40% more children and families than is projected. The number of children and families served continues to grow.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
We are currently working on a Shaken Baby Syndrome Educational Program for fathers and new parents. The primary goal of the SBS Educational Program is to reduce the incidence of SBS in our community.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

The Fayette County Family and Children First Council is working to ensure that our children will be safe, healthy and succeed in school. Our focus is on the commitments to child well-being:

- Expectant parents and newborns thriving;
- Infants and toddlers thriving;
- Children being ready for school;
- Children and youth succeeding in school;
- Youth choosing healthy behaviors; and
- Youth successfully transitioning into adulthood

FUNDING:

The Fayette County FCFC budget includes OCTF, OCBF, FAST, ABC, Part C, GRF and TANF. The funds provide a FCFC Coordinator, Help Me Grow services and Service Coordination.

STAFFING:

At the present time, the only paid staff is the Coordinator; however, there is staff support from the Administrative Agent and the Council.

CHALLENGES:

Funding is a challenge. More funding is needed and flexibility in the utilization of the funds would be helpful to meet the needs of more children and families.

FUTURE PLANS:

Determine the needs of the children in our community. The FCFC will work to enhance the well-being of our children, focus on and support Ohio's six commitments.

Contact Information:

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