



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



**COUNTY: JACKSON**

**MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:**

Create a community where all children and families are valued and supported. Delivering services and supports that are family driven and culturally competent that encourages and underlines the strength of each family.

Jackson County Family and Children First Council strive to be a champion in aiding all children and families to reach their greatest potential.

**OPERATING STRUCTURE:**

Operates as a department of the Jackson County Health Department, the FCFC administrative and fiscal agent.

**LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes  
Jackson County FCFC works actively with community partners to build community and operational capacity. The FCFC coordinates several cross- system projects and initiatives. Examples include the FCFC Summer Enrichment Camp (40% increase in children served in second year of implementation), planning stages of a Council run respite program, and a strong commitment from the local faith based community .
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes  
Jackson County FCFC collaborates actively with all partners and community agencies to support and facilitate family driven, culturally competent service coordination. FCFC will strive toward strengthening relationships among parents, teachers, school personnel and the community; committing as active partners to help all children succeed. FCFC will continue to inform the public of service coordination, promote sharing of data/studies/plans, and collect necessary data, statistical and assessment information for benchmarking.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes  
Jackson County FCFC will continue to recruit new parent representatives as well as actively engage parents as partners and educate them on the guiding principles of service coordination. FCFC will encourage parents to participate in any training that will link them with supports, educate, and promote advocacy.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes  
Jackson County FCFC implements the Help Me Grow Program through contracted providers. No direct services are provided by FCFC. The Early Childhood Coordinating Committee reports to Council.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes  
Jackson County FCFC will continue to offer positive parenting classes, access to the parent resource center, and continuation of a neglect and abuse awareness campaign each April. During the SFY08 positive parenting class participants showed a 99% in knowledge of targeted parenting issues and 100% reported that they had increased social support while attending group sessions; according to pre and post test evaluations.

**OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES:** strategies and outcomes

Jackson County FCFC), in collaboration with various youth serving agencies, and The Shire (a local family farm of 300 acres set up as an outdoor learning facility) and has developed a summer outdoor day camp that focuses on interactive educational and recreational based activities for at-risk youth. The program provides Jackson County youth an opportunity to enhance social skills, achieve personal growth, and further develop life skills and coping skills, through organized activities. This is the second year of implementation. The program currently serves 42 children from all over the county; the program is offered free of charge and primarily serves those youth involved in service coordination. FCFC was able to serve 40% more youth this year and continues to collect data to develop more effective strategies.

**FUNDING:**

Jackson County FCFC receives a \$20,000 capacity building grant from the state. Local Job and Family Services offers another \$21,000 dollars to support council activities. Additional funds of \$5,681 from Access to Better Care and \$ 234,848.80 for Help Me Grow are received.

**STAFFING:**

The Intersystem Coordinator is the only employee of Council.

**CHALLENGES:**

Increasing needs for flexible state and federal funding to state agencies and broader access to state and federal data bases.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

To continue to evolve based on the need of the community, continued commitment to support Child Well-Being, and continue to seek alternate funding to support Council's current efforts.

**Contact Information:**

**Megan Peters, Coordinator**  
**Jackson County Family and Children First Council**  
**200 E. Main Street**  
**Jackson, Ohio 45640**

**Phone 740-286-5094 ext. 250**  
**Fax 740-286-0456**  
**email [meganpeters@hotmail.com](mailto:meganpeters@hotmail.com)**