



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



COUNTY: LAWRENCE

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

The vision of our Council is to provide a complete, easy to access, collaborative service delivery system for the families and children of Lawrence County. Through Council's collaborative effort this unified system will deliver services without duplication within the different agencies. This system will work to make the family a partner in the planning process which will enable families to achieve their fullest potential.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Appalachian Family & Children First Council (AFCFC) is a 30 plus member coalition of child and family serving agencies and family representatives from Lawrence County. These agencies work together in a collaborative effort to meet the goals of children and families.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Lawrence County AFCFC will continue to work with various community partners to build community and operational capacity. Council will focus on projects that help build community involvement and also continue our support of our Youth Empowerment Activities. The 9th Street Project will be one of our main focus areas, which incorporates our HB289 Plan.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Lawrence County Appalachian Family & Children First Council works in a collaborative effort with local mental health agencies, public school districts, Department of Job and Family Services, MR/DD, and the ADAMHS Board in the referral, implementation, and outcome process of service coordination. This year 83 families and children have received service coordination services within our county.
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
The Lawrence County Appalachian Family & Children First Council works closely throughout the county with numerous organizations, mental health agencies, MR/DD, and public school districts to promote healthy children and strong families. The Council is actively involved with the YEA Program, Mentoring Services, and Parent and Teen Support Groups that promote positive outcomes for children and families in Lawrence County.
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
Lawrence County Board of MR/DD serves as the administrative / fiscal agent of the Appalachian Family & Children First Council. The administrative agent ensures that the Help Me Grow program priorities and requirements are carried out at the direction of AFCFC through its project contract (2009 HMG provider is the Ironton Lawrence County Head Start). In this past year (FY 08) approximately 250 At-Risk children and 110 Part C children were served. There were also 160 newborn home visits completed.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Appalachian Family & Children First Council has contracted with the GRADS Program to implement the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. SFY09 strategies are to implement prenatal wellness and nurturing programs. Some of the outcomes we want to accomplish are to increase healthy deliveries and babies, increase childhood immunizations, awareness of age-appropriate expectations, and to increase the use of non-violent discipline methods.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Ohio University Horse Park - This program offers interaction with horses to participants with mental, behavioral, cognitive, and / or physical disabilities.

Youth Respite - Provides as a temporary diversion for a crisis in a home, gives families time to step back and look at problems, helps reduce calls to Law Enforcement, Children Services, and the Juvenile Court.

Parent and Teen Support Groups - These support groups provide parent education courses, promote family involvement, and provide support to our parents and teens.

FUNDING:

The total budget for Lawrence County Appalachian Family & Children First Council including HMG and other state funds is \$608,215.

STAFFING:

Lawrence County Appalachian Family & Children First Council contracts with one staff person to fill both positions of Coordinator / Service Coordinator.

CHALLENGES:

There are no hospitals within 30 miles, transportation, substance abuse, and a need for more flexibility in available funding streams.

FUTURE PLANS:

Continued efforts will be made to identify services and resources to help promote our commitment to child well-being.

Contact Information:

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