



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



COUNTY: MUSKINGUM

MISSION STATEMENT / LOCAL FOCUS:

To bring together organizations and individuals to strengthen, empower and enhance families through community collaboration.

OPERATING STRUCTURE:

Operates as a department of Muskingum County Commissioners with Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department serving as the administrative and fiscal agent.

LOCAL FCFC CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Community Capacity Building/Planning:** strategies and outcomes
Muskingum County is a PfS grant recipient and has used the Partnership for Success (PfS) process to assist in identifying long term goals for the community. Through this process the community has selected the commitment that "Children and Youth Succeed in School". A community wide project of Care Team implementation into all Muskingum County Schools is in its sixth year and continues to provide positive outcomes toward reaching our commitment toward school success. Additional strategies include a greater alliance with the United Way of Muskingum, Morgan and Perry Counties and partner with the United Way to provide financial literacy to Muskingum County residents.
- **Service Coordination:** strategies and outcomes
Muskingum County Service Coordination is handled through a committee of PRO-Muskingum called Creative Options. The committee is comprised of local service providers that seek to collaborate with families in order to keep children in their homes and in the community by providing wraparound services, respite, and other local service alternatives to out-of-home placement. The mission is to assist families with problem solving, managing needs, and utilizing area resources in order to stabilize and strengthen those families within our own community. .
- **Family Empowerment:** strategies and outcomes
Families enter Creative Options through a referral from an agency, school or self-referral. The family is immediately assisted with crisis-intervention , services, etc. in order to maintain the child in the home. Then efforts shift to empowering the family to manage their needs without the use of Creative Options. The family exits Creative Options at a point when the team and the family feel they can manage their own needs
- **Early Childhood System of Care:** strategies and outcomes
The Early Childhood Collaborative Group of Muskingum County serves as the early childhood advisors to the PRO-Muskingum Board of Directors. This committee deals directly with issues and concerns of both parents and providers of young children birth to three. The Chair of this committee sits on the Family and Children First Board of Directors and provides monthly reports and updates. Help Me Grow of Muskingum County provides service coordination for children 0-3 years of age. New parents are introduced to the Help Me Grow (HMG) Program through the Welcome Home visit by a Registered Nurse shortly after a child is born. Infant care, child development and general parenting issues are discussed with the Welcome Home Nurse and if a family is eligible they are assigned a Help Me Grow Service Coordinator. Early Intervention programs are provided by an array of Muskingum County agencies and the Help Me Grow Service Provider assists the family in accessing services for their child. The Service Coordinator assists with everything from making sure a mother receives pre-natal medical care to transitioning a child from home to pre-school. While HMG is not a direct service provider, they work to assist the family as they services provided by Help Me Grow.

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

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** strategies and outcomes
Muskingum County places a great deal of emphasis upon prevention activities related to Child Abuse and Neglect. Two of these programs are funded through the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. The first is designed to promote parent involvement and the second is designed to teach parenting skills. Both of these programs also help us meet our long term goal of helping children succeed in school. We measure our long term success via the Developmental Asset Survey Tool given to all 7-12 graders every three years. Short term outcomes have indicated that 100% of parents participating in the parenting program show some improvement in their basic parenting skills. Additionally, by working with parents to become involved in their child's education we have noted a 25% increase in parent participation with their child's school.

OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES: strategies and outcomes

Muskingum County has over 8,000 students in grades 7-12. We now have eight Care Team schools that serve 3378 students. This community-wide effort is designed around the 40 Developmental Assets. The basic program goal is to build assets while providing intervention programs to give students the protective factors necessary to be successful in school and life. All agencies in Muskingum County are actively involved in Care Teams. Each agency provides resources in their area of expertise and the whole Care Team School benefits in some way through their participation.

Leadership Muskingum is a program of PRO-Muskingum offered in partnership with Ohio University-Zanesville, Zane State College and an active Alumni Association. The tuition based, employer sponsored program is a nine month exploration of Muskingum County that seeks to enhance the leadership and community service contributions of Muskingum County citizens through providing opportunities for community awareness, relationship building, and service learning that benefits individuals, employers, and the community.

FUNDING:

PRO-Muskingum has an annual operating budget of \$275,000.00. Funding sources include the Ohio Capacity Building Grant, Help Me Grow Administrative Dollars, FAST, ABC Non-Behavioral Health, Pooled Funding from the community, Local Title XX Funding, Donations from Genesis Health Care System and our fiscal agent Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department. [AMuskingum County Help Me Grow has a combined total budget of \\$794,470.00. Additionally,](#) A variety of special funding is also obtained to fund specific programs or projects in the community.

STAFFING:

One Full Time Executive Director and a part time Administrative Assistant.

CHALLENGES:

Discretionary funding to support special projects. Finding and retaining mental health professionals in South East Ohio continues to be an issue - particularly those that specialize in children.

FUTURE PLANS:

We will continue our alliance with the United Way and work cooperatively to bring greater alliance between the public and private sectors of the community around common issues. We hope to continue to fund our Care Teams to meet school community partnership requirements in the Governor's Education Reform Package. We will continue to measure Developmental Assets in our youth via the Search Institute Survey process and then customize our community asset work around the missing assets.

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