



**Ohio Family &
Children First
Coordinators
Association**

**THE OHIO FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COORDINATORS
ASSOCIATION**

POSITION PAPER:

SFY 2012-2013 BUDGET

OHIO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

MAY 2011

The Ohio Family and Children First Coordinators Association (OFCFCA) is comprised of local Family and Children First Council Coordinators and Directors. Members work with a wide a range of public and private organizations that serve children and families within their counties. Per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 121.37 (2) (b), local councils are mandated to provide for the “development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results.”

Through the provisions outlined in ORC Section 3109.17, local Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) or Local Advisory Boards (LAB) contract with the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF) to obtain funding to provide child abuse and neglect prevention services. To obtain this funding, the FCFCs or LABs must complete a local needs assessment, a plan submission and approval process, public notification of funds, and local request for proposals for programming elements. This process is the means by which local communities annually receive funding from the OCTF. Language that has been included in the Amended Substitute House Bill 153, Section 3109.17 (B) (7) (pg. 1249, lines 38877-38884) directly contradicts ORC 121.37 and the requirements of local FCFCs. This language requires the allocation of funds to children’s crisis care facilities upon the direct approval of the Board, thus circumventing the mandate and local planning processes of FCFCs. If approved, the allocated funds would be subtracted from the amount allocated to the LABs and FCFCs that serves the county in which the facility is located. This not only circumvents mandated local planning processes, it also jeopardizes funding of community partners and practices that have legitimately and successfully navigated a local RFP process.

This language would not only allow crisis care facilities to circumvent a mandated exercise, but it would also set a precedent for any other entity to directly petition the OCTF Board if they do not agree with local planning processes outlined for FCFCs in ORC 121.37. In addition, there is nothing currently in law preventing a children’s crisis care facility from coming before the OCTF board and submitting a proposal for funding. The OFCFCA would like this language removed from the Am. Sub. HB 153. We appreciate your interest in the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund and local child abuse and neglect prevention services. Please contact us if you would like additional information. Thank you.

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