
State in the Spotlight: Ohio

Established in 1993, Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) is defined as the Governor's Children's Cabinet with the purpose of streamlining and coordinating government services for children and families. The OFCF Cabinet Council is comprised of the following Ohio Departments: Aging, Developmental Disabilities, Education, Health, Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Rehabilitation and Correction, Youth Services, and the Office of Budget and Management. Locally, the County Commissions oversee the 88 county Family and Children First Councils (FCFC).

1. Support of county Family and Children First Councils (FCFC): The state-level Office of Family and Children First Council is staffed to support the county collaboratives with the following positions: Director, Senior Financial Officer, Regional Coordinators and Family Engagement Coordinators. County FCFC are composed of mandated members from each service sector and community members. Local FCFC are able to access federal 4B and Part C dollars for local initiatives, as well as receive some minimal funding from the State.
2. Shared Planning Model: Needs assessments were fragmented and duplicative. Process transitioned into a shared planning model that required the alignment of local plans for addressing priorities related to children and families. The shared planning model is a simplified process that builds on data-informed plans that already exist in the community. The FCFCs were required to do some additional research to support their shared planning and/or fill any data gaps, but were not be required to conduct comprehensive planning. Instead, the FCFCs focused on priorities based on the alignment of members' plans.
3. Complex Case Staffing Process: Panel of Experts that serve as a place to elevate difficult or complex cases or potential conflicts of interest. Opportunities to present complex cases and to receive written recommendations from multidisciplinary experts; opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills to manage complex conditions in their own communities and to be part of a community of practice
4. Wrap around service model with dedicated website and well curated, current, resources and tools. Utilizes trained parent navigator and advocates. Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT) and Resiliency Framework.
5. Regional learning networks and community trainings provided from OFCF to the FCFC. Shared, collaborative community training are common vs each system being trained in a silo. Additional support provided to struggling FCFC.

