

IV. Ohio CAPTA State Plan Requirements and Updates

Introduction

The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is the single state agency that administers the Basic State Grant issued under CAPTA. With the establishment of DCY on July 5, 2023, the administration of the Basic State Grant was transferred from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to DCY effective July 1, 2024. Most social services programs under the department's purview are county administered with the department providing directions to local agencies through administrative rules and program guidance.

Grant funds are primarily used to support the development and implementation of programs. This work is carried out directly by the policy and program staff at DCY, often in collaboration with public and private agencies or other stakeholders, or indirectly through funding contracts to community-based agencies or other organizations. The objectives and activities included in this plan are aligned with and support the activities outlined in Ohio's Child and Family Services Plan as required under title IV-B of the Social Security Act.

Grant funds are used to provide training, policy guidance, and technical assistance to child protective services (CPS) caseworkers and supervisors on all programming outlined in this plan, including the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM) and Differential Response (DR). Additionally, several publications developed and reproduced with grant funding support training for mandated reporters and public education on reporting child abuse and neglect. These materials are distributed free of charge and made available to all.

Changes to State Law

Ohio has not enacted any statutory changes affecting CAPTA program eligibility since the last update. However, on July 5, 2023, Governor Mike DeWine signed the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget into law, which included the creation of DCY as a new state agency. DCY consolidates programs from six different state agencies, including those previously housed within the ODJFS. The new agency became effective on July 1, 2024.

Significant Changes to the Previously Approved CAPTA Plan

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)/Plans of Safe Care (PoSC)

Ohio's Practice and Policy Academy (PPA), which focuses on the implementation of CARA and PoSC, has provided structured support and guidance across Ohio. DCY continues its partnership with the PPA State Team whose mission is to ensure Ohio remains committed to the development, implementation, and monitoring of PoSCs. The PPA State team includes members from the following entities:

- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction
- Governor's Office
- Ohio Supreme Court
- Ohio Department of Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Health

- Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- Medical Hospitals (delivering hospitals)
- Ohio Child Welfare counties who have consistent CARA/PoSC practices

DCY's CAPTA funds for CARA will continue to focus on the long-term goal of establishing community based PoSC Coordinators for Ohio. Community-based CARA/PoSC Coordinators will serve infants, children and families impacted by substance use disorders (SUD). These positions will ensure Ohio is in compliance with federal guidelines and expectations governing universal and consistent practices which follow the intent of CARA.

In 2024 the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services released a Request for Application (RFA) for the purpose of soliciting applications from qualified non-profit organizations or governmental entities to provide coordinated care among families struggling with opioid and/or stimulant use disorders(s), who are or could be involved in PoSC with public serving child welfare agencies. One of the main requirements for the RFA was to hire a PoSC Coordinator for the county. The responsibility of this coordinator position would include activities such as enhancing community collaboration with medical providers and early childhood service providers to provide quicker connections and improve access to all local services for children and families (including prenatal care) and for the development of PoSC.

Cincinnati's Children's Hospital Medical Center Division of Neonatology, located in Hamilton County, was awarded the CARA grant. Hamilton County is a large metro county with a diverse number of community providers and several delivering hospitals which serve infants, children, and families impacted by SUDs. The duties of Cincinnati's Children's Hospital PoSC Coordinator include:

- Creating a core team of community providers who work with families and infants impacted by SUD or substance misuse.
- Coordinating cross system training and technical assistance for all core team members and service providers who work with families and infants impacted by SUD or substance misuse meeting CARA requirements.
- Researching practices across systems who work with families and infants impacted by SUD or substance misuse.
- Developing training and marketing materials for implementing POSC.
- Developing a Memorandum of Understanding to share information across service providers.
- Establishing relationships with medical staff at all delivering hospitals in Hamilton County.
- Developing a process of communication with the delivering hospitals and the coordinator.
- Developing a contact and referral process for hospital staff to Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services.
- Establishing a collaborative relationship with Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services.
- Developing a process of communication between children services and the coordinator.
- Developing a standardized referral process for referrals for families who meet the requirements of CARA (both for screened in and screened out referrals).

- Developing a standardized referral process for all county mandated reporters for families who meet the requirements of CARA that includes all coordinating service providers.
- Enhancing community collaboration with medical providers and service providers to provide quicker connections and improve access to all local services for infants, children, and families (including pre-natal services) and for the development of a POSC.
- Developing high level service coordination that includes:
 - Collaborating with local treatment agencies and hospitals prior to a child’s birth.
 - Addressing the health and well-being of all family members who reside in the home who are impacted by SUD or substance misuse with a standardized service plan including all service providers.
 - Incorporating peer recovery supports if available.
- Developing a service continuum available to clients/ families and establish protocols that allow entry into services regardless of protective service involvement.
- Developing data collection, monitoring, and reporting practices for quarterly reports to be shared across systems.

DCY’s CAPTA funds for CARA will continue to focus on the long-term goal of establishing community based PoSC Coordinators throughout Ohio. Community-based CARA/PoSC Coordinators will serve infants, children and families impacted by SUD. These positions will ensure Ohio is in compliance with federal guidelines and expectations governing universal and consistent practices which follow the intent of CARA.

CAPTA Update

DCY will continue to use grant funds to sustain existing programs and to develop new initiatives aimed at strengthening Ohio’s CPS system. Specifically, Basic Grant funds will be allocated to support the following CAPTA objectives:

- Objective 1: Improving the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of child abuse and neglect.
- Objective 2: Improving case management, including ongoing case monitoring, and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families.
- Objective 3: Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, including the use of differential response.
- Objective 5: Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including:
 - Training regarding evidence-based strategies, including the use of differential response, to promote collaboration with the families.
 - Training regarding the legal duties of agency/court personnel and law enforcement.
 - Personal safety training for caseworkers; and
 - Training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development.
- Objective 6: Developing and implementing procedures for collaboration among child protective services, domestic violence services, and other agencies in:
 - Investigations, interventions, and the delivery of services and treatment provided to children and families, including the use of differential response, where appropriate; and

- Provision of services that assist children exposed to domestic violence, and that also support the caregiving role of their non-abusing parents.
- Objective 7: Developing and delivering information to improve public education relating to the roles and responsibilities of the child protection system including the use of differential response and the nature and basis for reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect.
- Objective 8: Supporting and enhancing interagency collaboration among public health agencies, agencies in the child protective service system, and agencies carrying out private community-based programs:
 - To provide child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment services (including linkages with education systems), and the use of differential response; and
 - To address the health needs, including mental health needs, of children identified as victims of child abuse or neglect, including supporting prompt, comprehensive health and developmental evaluations for children who are the subject of substantiated child maltreatment reports.
- Objective 9: Improving the skills, qualifications, and availability of individuals providing services to children and families, and the supervisors of such individuals, through the child protection system, including improvements in the recruitment and retention of caseworkers.

Objective 1: Improving the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of child abuse and neglect.

Intake and Screening

The *Ohio Child Protective Screening Guidelines* were revised and re-issued in September 2022. These updates included information from Ohio’s public children services agencies (PCSAs) , The Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Ohio’s Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Institute for Human Services.

In 2024–2025, DCY again partnered with the Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce to enhance the Screening Guidelines by incorporating human trafficking information in each section related to the responsibilities of PCSAs in screening, identifying, and notifying the appropriate authorities. References and links to relevant Human Trafficking rules from the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) have been included throughout the document. Additionally, guidance on notification requirements to specific agencies is provided in alignment with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and is noted in each section.

Trafficking

Sex trafficking is included in the definition of an abused child in the ORC [Section 2151.031 - Abused child defined](#). The *Ohio Child Protective Screening Guidelines* include guidance and ORC references for all relevant trafficking in persons and compelling prostitution statutes, consideration to refer all allegations of human trafficking to law enforcement the local Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC). Additional details regarding the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act have been added into the Screening Guidelines. A recommendation will be submitted for the next biennial budget cycle (SFY 2026-2027) to broaden the definition of child abuse and neglect within ORC to include other forms of trafficking.

Taking Early Action Matters Ohio

DCY has developed Taking Early Action Matters Ohio (TEAM Ohio), an online portal for mandated reporters to submit non-emergent referrals of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency. TEAM Ohio was developed based on the Screening Guidelines, a review of other jurisdictions' reporting portals, and input from PCSAs and mandated reporters. The system went live in one PCSA and their selected community partners in June 2023 and gradually expanded to 13 PCSAs. TEAM Ohio was integrated into Ohio SACWIS on May 1, 2025. This included a new user interface for PCSAs, with the ability to record referrals in TEAM Ohio, as well as process referrals submitted through the portal. DCY held a live TEAM Ohio training for all Title IV-E agency staff on March 17, 2025, posted the training, provided additional guidance, and plans to hold open office hours for any questions. Select mandated reporters may now submit referrals to any PCSA in Ohio. Once an after-hours notification system is implemented later this year, DCY plans to make the link to the portal publicly searchable for all mandated reporters. DCY has received positive feedback on TEAM Ohio, with mandated reporters sharing that it is user-friendly, easier to fit online reporting into their day rather than reporting via a phone call, and in some instances quicker to report concerns via the portal. PCSAs shared that the quality of information received via TEAM Ohio is typically comparable to information received via a phone call. From May 15, 2024, to May 15, 2025, 4,731 referrals were received through TEAM Ohio.

Screening, Assessment, and Investigation Rules

DCY completed the five-year rule review process for OAC Chapter 5180:2-36 *Screening and Investigation* rules in September 2024. DCY partnered with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and numerous PCSAs to obtain feedback and suggestions on the rules during bi-weekly meetings held from March 2023 through January 2024. Recommendations voted on by PCSA workgroup members were accepted to be included in the revised rules when possible. Recommendations conflicting with the ORC or federal requirements could not be accepted, but this rationale was explained to workgroup members. Updates included clarifying and consolidating all information related to determining the lead PCSA "jurisdiction," allowing PCSAs to refer screened out intakes for community prevention services, informing alleged perpetrators of the PCSA's appeal process when they are informed of the disposition and right to appeal, and updating multiple assessment/investigation timeframes. DCY, in collaboration with the PCSAO, presented an overview of the proposed rule revisions to PCSAs in March 2024. An overview of the main changes occurred prior to the formal rule review and filing process.

Technical assistance teams were included in the workgroup and can assist PCSAs with support and implementation of the revisions to the OAC Chapter 5180:2-36 Screening and Investigation rules.

Ohio Administrative Code Rule	Title
5180-2-1-01	Children services definition of terms.
5180:2-36-01	Intake and screening procedures for CAND and FINS reports; and info/referral only intakes.
5180:2-36-02	PCSA requirements for determining lead agency for screening and assessments/investigations.
5180:2-36-03	PCSA requirements for intra-familial CAN A/Is.
5180:2-36-04	PCSA requirements for conducting a specialized A/I
5180:2-36-05	PCSA requirements for conducting stranger danger investigations.
5180:2-36-06	PCSA requirements for a deserted child A/I.

Ohio Administrative Code Rule	Title
5180:2-36-07	PCSA requirement for conducting an A/I of the alleged withholding of medically indicated treatment from a disabled infant with life threatening conditions.
5180:2-36-08	PCSA requirements for involving a third party in the A/I of a CAN report.
5180:2-36-09	Requirements for dependent child assessments.
5180:2-36-10	PCSA requirements for responding to FINS reports.
5180:2-36-11	Extending time frames for completion or waiving completions of A/I activities.
5180:2-36-12	PCSA requirement for cross-referencing reports of CAN.
5180:2-36-14	Protective service alert.
5180:2-36-20	PCSA assessment requirements for CAN reports in AR.
5180:2-37-01	PCSA requirements for completing safety assessment.
5180:2-37-02	PCSA requirements for completing the safety plan.
5180:2-37-03	PCSA requirements for completing family assessment.
5180:2-40-02	Supportive services for prevention of placement, reunification and life skills.

Objective 2: Improving case management, including ongoing case monitoring, and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families.

Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM) Tools Update

The Family Case Plan, Case Review, and Semiannual Administrative Review (SAR) tools were redesigned and released into Ohio’s CCWIS on January 17, 2020. In December 2022, Family Case Plan and SAR functionality was updated to support Concurrent Planning by adding requirements within the Family Case Plan to allow documentation of concurrent planning when a child enters the temporary custody of a PCSA or private child placing agency (PCPA). The SAR functionality includes a review of services and family search and engagement efforts being completed to support concurrent planning. Updates to the system will continue to occur as rules are developed or revised.

In the upcoming year, DCY will conduct a comprehensive review of the Family Assessment, Case Review, and Specialized Assessment tools. The purpose of this review is to ensure that these assessments capture appropriate, thorough, and streamlined information without unnecessary duplication. Additionally, the review will focus on confirming that safety and risk factors are accurately assessed and documented, providing a clear and current reflection of the family's circumstances, concerns, and needs at the time of the assessment.

Rule Revisions

Throughout 2024, DCY considered multiple recommendations from PCSAs to identify practice requirements that could be removed from the OAC in order to reduce administrative burden and enhance casework efficiency. Each recommendation was carefully evaluated to ensure child safety remained uncompromised, while also being cross-referenced with federal requirements and the ORC.

Ohio Administrative Code Rule	Title
5180:2-33.14	PCSA requirements for recording a child fatality or near fatality.
5180:2-33-55	Education and training requirements for PCSA caseworkers.
5180:2-33-56	Training requirements for PCSA supervisors.

Ohio’s Citizen Review Panel

DCY continues to maintain their contract with The Ohio State University’s College of Social Work, who has overseen the administrative duties of Ohio’s Citizen Review Panels (CRP) since January of 2016. The five CRP panels continue to be based on their geographical location and are titled:

- Central Ohio Panel
- Northeast Ohio Panel
- Northwest Ohio Panel
- Southeast Ohio Panel
- Southeast Ohio Panel

DCY provides administrative support to OSU’s Program Manager and CRP Coordinators. The Program manager and team provides the following to the five panels:

- Membership recruitment
- Tracking/maintenance of panel membership
- Training new CRP members
- Maintenance of online training site
- Assisting with agenda creation for bimonthly meetings
- Partnering with new chairpersons to run the meetings
- Facilitating communication between CRPs and DCY/PCSAs
- Providing support to panels in obtaining data from DCY
- Assisting panels in gathering data from other sources
- Data analysis

The CRPs are charged with conducting a yearly review of child welfare practices across Ohio and making recommendations applicable statewide rather than narrowed to their respective geographic location. Each panel provides perspectives from the stakeholder community on children services practices, policies to improve safety, permanency, and the immediate and long-term well-being of children. Panel members are volunteers and are not appointed or compensated for their work. They were strategically recruited to ensure panels have equal representation among gender, race, age, and professional discipline. CAPTA details the following two objectives for the CRP program:

- Evaluate the impact of current child services procedures and practices on children and families in the community.
- Provide the information to the public for outreach.

The annual CRP report was distributed in December 2024 to Ohio’s PCSAs, IV-E Courts, PCSAO, Ohio Job and Family Services Director’s Association (OJFSDA), Ohio Children’s Alliance, and Ohio’s University Consortium of Child and Adult Services for Ohio’s Child Welfare Training Program.

The CRPs held their Annual Strategic Planning Meeting on May 29, 2024. During the meeting CRP panels reviewed the previous years' work and discussed the plan and topics for the next year. For the 2025-2026 evaluation year the panels selected the following topics for evaluation:

- Northwest: The Northwest CRP will be utilizing the focus group data from the 23/24 work year with the addition of a young adult focus group. They want to take a closer look at the data regarding how stakeholders define child well-being and the similarities and differences across groups.
- Northeast: The Northeast CRP is choosing a new topic for this working year. They are very interested in how Ohio is using or measuring positive childhood experiences (PCEs) for children involved with child welfare. They want to start with getting a better idea about how Ohio is or is not using this as model to best serve children and families.
- Central: The Central Ohio CRP is going to do an impact report looking at past CRP recommendations regarding the child welfare workforce. They plan to follow up on all DCY responses regarding workforce changes.
- Southwest: The Southwest CRP is also doing an impact report looking at their first year of recommendations around meeting the behavioral health needs of youth involved with child welfare.
- Southeast: The Southeast CRP will be using the young person focus group data to better understand their perspective of well-being and how child welfare agencies prepared their families for case closure.

Attached is the 2024-2025 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report and the DCY Response to the 2024-2025 Annual Citizen Review Panel Report.

Objective 3: Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, including the use of differential response.

Best Practice Incentives

On July 3, 2023, Governor DeWine signed Amended Substitute House Bill Number 33 (HB 33) of the 135th General Assembly. Within the Bill, the state appropriated funding for strengthening best practices to help achieve better outcomes for children, youth, and families. DCY has continued the Best Practice Incentive Program; utilizing \$5 million per State Fiscal Year (SFY) to incentivize best practice measures. A portion of SFY 2024 funds will be utilized to award the current Best Practice Incentive measures outlined in Families and Children Letter #016: [Best Practice Incentive](#). The aim is to incentivize agencies making marked improvements in achieving compliance with visitation and timely assessment/investigation measures.

The two Children Services Best Practice Incentive Program categories are: **Most Improved** and those **Achieving 95% Compliance**. There will be a Bonus Incentive awarded at the end of the final cycle. This bonus funding will be awarded to counties achieving 95% compliance in both Timely Assessments/Investigations and Composite Visitation Score throughout all three evaluation periods.

Every six months, incentive dollars will be provided to counties achieving 95% compliance in either of the two prioritized measures. Incentive funding in this category will be evenly distributed to all counties, achieving 95%.

A breakdown of the incentive amounts available and the measurement timeframes are located in the Families and Children Letter #133: [Best Practice Incentives](#).

Differential Response

Data reports to track overall county performance on fidelity measures can be obtained through an Ohio SACWIS query. The following information shows how many reports are being categorically assigned to the Alternative Response and Traditional Response Pathways:

From April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, Ohio screened in 67,768 reports of Child Abuse and Neglect:

- 29,290 were assigned to the Alternative Response (AR) Pathway (43%)
- 38,478 were assigned to the Traditional Response Pathway (57%)

DCY continues to encourage supervisors to use The *Supervisory Coaching Toolkit* to help them assess and provide feedback to caseworkers on skills found in Ohio’s CCWIS documentation. The case review tool allows supervisors and caseworkers to achieve fidelity to the Differential Response model and promotes improvement in clinical competency and case documentation practice.

Efforts to integrate CAPM Differential Response and Ohio’s CCWIS content in Caseworker Core have ensured training curricula address new caseworkers’ specific learning needs to conduct assessments, family case plans, and prevention service plans consistent with Ohio’s practice model. There is one Caseworker Core 2.0 specific to Differential Response. The table below outlines the completions and impact of the course, *Overview of Differential Response*, between July 1, 2024 - April 1, 2025. The table has the average score from the course evaluation questions, “*The content was relevant to my role.*” and “*I think I will be able to apply what I learned.*” Learners rated items on a 5-point rating scale (1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree).

Course	Modality	Completions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
Overview of Differential Response	SD	670	4.71	4.71

Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM) Tools Update

Based upon recommendations contained in the CAMPIS evaluation completed by the University of Cincinnati, planning, development, and activities continue for revision of existing CAMPIS tools for finalization to CAPM. The goal is to streamline Ohio’s protective services assessment of safety and risk, reduce the time to complete assessments by eliminating unnecessary duplication of entry, while maintaining the imperative information gathered to comprehensively assess and inform case direction.

DCY will be reviewing the Family Assessment and implement revisions as needed. Based on these changes the Ongoing Case Assessment/Investigation Tool may be removed.

Assessment Tools

Beginning in June 2020, the CPS policy team partnered with various department staff, county partners, and stakeholders to begin revisions to the assessment tools and accompanying field guides.

In partnership with the Governor's Human Trafficking Task Force, DCY has developed a screening tool to support Ohio's PCSAs in identifying victims of human trafficking. A multidisciplinary DCY workgroup is currently developing an implementation plan that includes a comprehensive review of the tool, determination of access points, data collection protocols, and potential integration within Ohio CCWIS.

The plan will also address evaluation strategies to measure the tool's effectiveness, consider related policy development, identify necessary training and guidance, assess potential barriers, and establish a projected project timeline. This initiative reflects the state's continued commitment to strengthening its child welfare response to human trafficking through coordinated, evidence-informed practices.

Safety Assessment

The Safety Assessment tool was revised to include the CAPMIS evaluation recommendations, suggestions from internal staff, county partners, stakeholders, and the previous Microburst on Rule Review and Program Hearing (MORRPH) sessions held regarding the OAC assessment rules. The goal of the Safety Assessment tool is to promote critical thinking about assessment and case decision making.

Ohio CCWIS and CPS policy staff collaborated to enhance the Ohio CCWIS functionality in response to the revisions. The Safety Assessment has been enhanced by restructuring it to differentiate between possible safety threats, indicators of child vulnerabilities along with the presence or absence of adult protective capacities. Within the Safety Assessment, activity logs as well as historical intake and assessment information display to assist with accurate documentation, review of gathered information, appropriate safety responses, and supervisory oversight. The new Safety Assessment structure has also been updated in other case areas to promote consistency across the life of a case. Ohio's CCWIS functionality of the Safety Assessment was released in April 2022.

Safety Plan ERIN/EMMA

The Safety Plan form was revised and went into effect in April 2023. The changes which were made were a result of recommendations received from county partners. The Safety Plan form was updated to align with Ohio's CCWIS functionality. Sections on the form were added to include safety plan type and the ability to capture name, date, and time of verbal authorization provided by a custodial parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or responsible person not physically present to sign the form.

Actuarial Risk Assessment ERIN/EMMA

The CPS policy team proposed revisions to Ohio's current actuarial risk assessment (ARA) so that it would be more predictive of future maltreatment and better inform service teams of appropriate case direction.

Prior to revising the ARA, Ohio's CCWIS staff and CPS policy staff partnered to enhance the ARA within the system. The ARA is available as a standalone tool, prior to completing a Family Assessment. Ohio's CCWIS users can link an ARA when creating a new Family Assessment, prepopulating intake information, child participants, and risk scores. This information can be updated for accuracy during the assessment/investigation.

Family Assessment

Beginning in October 2021, revisions to the Family Assessment tool commenced between CPS policy staff, various internal staff, county partners, and stakeholders. In addition, recommendations, and suggestions from the CAPMIS evaluation and previous Microburst on Rule Review and Program Hearing sessions were considered in the development. A revised Family Assessment tool has been drafted and awaiting inclusion into Ohio’s CCWIS. Once implemented, qualitative analysis will be conducted on safety and risk factors to determine and better inform revisions needed for the ARA.

The goal of the Family Assessment tool is to promote and enhance critical thinking skills, case decision making, appropriate service provision for families, and to provide guidance within the field guide on how to engage family members to gather information to comprehensively assess for safety and risk. Furthermore, resources will be readily available for specific case scenarios within Ohio’s CCWIS or the field guide along with streamlining information across tools and other work items within the system to reduce duplication of entry.

Objective 4: Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training.

Caseworker and Supervisor Core

Caseworker and Supervisor Core 2.0 lay a strong foundation for (1) assessing safety and safety planning, (2) assessing strengths and needs, and (3) service planning.

The table below outlines the completions and impact of self-directed (SD), and instructor led training (ILT) related to CAPM and Ohio SACWIS practice in each series between July 1, 2024-April 1, 2025. The tables also have the average score from the course evaluation questions, “*The content was relevant to my role.*” and “*I think I will be able to apply what I learned.*” Learners rated items on a 5-point rating scale (1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree).

Caseworker Core 2.0

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
Overview of CAPM	SD	689	N/A	4.67	4.65
Introduction to Engagement	SD	660	N/A	4.60	4.55
Introduction to Interviewing	SD	587	N/A	4.58	4.48
Engagement and Interviewing Skills Practice	ILT	525	38	4.63	4.59

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
Interviewing Children	ILT	526	41	4.68	4.66
Seven Steps of Critical Thinking	SD	732	N/A	4.48	4.47
Planning Home Visits	SD	563	N/A	4.5	4.5
Conducting Home Visits	SD	575	N/A	4.41	4.49
Documenting and Debriefing Home Visits	SD	509	N/A	4.65	4.63
Parental Rights and Caseworker Responsibilities	SD	674	N/A	4.51	4.57
Skillful Use of Protective Authority	SD	607	N/A	4.58	4.47
Determining if Abuse or Neglect Occurred	ILT	459	37	4.72	4.66
Overview of Ohio's Screening Practices	SD	565	N/A	4.52	4.57
Case Pathway Assignment	SD	565	N/A	4.58	4.58
Fundamentals of Assessing Safety	SD	383	N/A	4.57	4.53
Documenting the Initial Assessment of Safety in Ohio SACWIS	SD	567	N/A	4.38	4.42
Quality Assessments of Safety: Is Immediate Intervention	ILT	459	36	4.62	4.65

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
Necessary to Assure Child Safety?					
Fundamentals of Fact Gathering	SD	632	N/A	4.56	4.57
Fact Gathering Skills Practice	ILT	538	39	4.63	4.55
Safety Planning: Determining How to Control Safety Threats	SD	636	N/A	4.51	4.49
Assuring Child Safety within Key Practice Areas	ILT	451	36	4.59	4.62
Assessing Risk of Future Harm	ILT	545	37	4.53	4.58
Module 6: Service Planning and Delivery *	ILT	649	31	4.36	4.43
Principles of Concurrent Planning	SD	509	N/A	4.62	4.62

*Module 6: Service Planning and Delivery is offered to learners completing Caseworker Core 1.0 and 2.0.

Supervisor Core 2.0

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
Managing for Outcomes: Using SACWIS Data to Improve Performance	ILT	44	6	4.48	4.52

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
The Seven Steps of Critical Thinking*	SD	732	N/A	4.48	4.47
The Supervisor's Role in Assessing Safety	SD	55	N/A	4.58	4.58
Supervision Strategies to Promote Thorough Assessments of Safety	ILT	51	6	4.58	4.54
Supervising Separation and Placement Decisions	ILT	38	4	4.69	4.69

*The Seven Steps of Critical Thinking self-directed course is also part of Caseworker Core 2.0.

Monthly course-specific thematic analyses are conducted and shared with OCWTP partners to complement the quantitative data. Samples of these analyses are accessible via the hyperlinked course titles below. They synthesize learner feedback and highlight trends in content delivery, trainer effectiveness, and perceived learning transfer. Based on these findings, OUCCAS implements responsive actions such as refining training content, adjusting instructional strategies, and providing trainer support, demonstrating an iterative, data-informed approach to improving the training quality.

- [Conducting Home Visits](#)
- [Skillful Use of Protective Authority](#)
- [Quality Assessments of Safety: Is Immediate Intervention Necessary to Assure Child Safety?](#)
- [Fact Gathering Skills Practice](#)
- [Principles of Concurrent Planning](#)

Ongoing Training Needs

In addition to Caseworker and Supervisor Core, OCWTP offers a variety of learning opportunities to address knowledge and skill gaps in assessing safety, safety planning, and service planning.

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
CAPM Assessing Safety	ILT	23	3	4.61	4.67

Course	Modality	Completions	Sessions	Content Relevance Rating	Apply What I Learned
CAPM Safety Planning	ILT	57	5	4.83	4.96
CAPM Strengths and Needs Risk Assessment	ILT	14	2	4.60	4.90

Attendance for the CAPM training is down from previous years. The program suspects this is because the concepts have been better integrated into Caseworker and Supervisor Core, and staff have likely taken this training in previous years.

In April 2025, OCWTP launched *There’s No Such Thing as a “Safety Risk” and Why It Matters*, a new recorded panel discussion available via CAPS LMS. This 45-minute recorded panel discussion features three seasoned child protection leaders who explore a critical issue in child protection decision-making: the difference between safety and risk. When we clearly distinguish between safety and risk, we make better decisions—and families experience fewer unnecessary interventions. This resource supports confident, accurate safety assessments that protect children and strengthen families. It’s designed to support supervisors, caseworkers, agency leadership, trainers, and coaches by:

- Clarifying the essential differences between “safety” and “risk” in child protection work.
- Highlighting how confusing the two can lead to unnecessary interventions.
- Offering practical, real-world guidance for making sound, defensible safety decisions.
- Featuring an example of a county that reduced foster care placements by two-thirds by applying these concepts.

Transfer of Learning Support

OUCAS developed transfer of learning (TOL) resources based on fundamental concepts covered in Caseworker Core 2.0. These TOL supports support caseworkers as they continue to practice skills learned in the classroom and apply them in the field. The initial focus of this work was on the assessment of safety.

In July 2024, 22 Assessing Safety Micro-Videos were launched via CAPS LMS. These are short, focused videos that help caseworkers revisit assessment of safety concepts, like identifying active safety threats and distinguishing between safety and risk, anytime. Here are the number of micro-videos views between July 1, 2024 – May 6, 2025.

Micro-Video	Total Views
Adult Protective Capacity: Behavioral Domain	47
Adult Protective Capacity: Cognitive Domain	44

Micro-Video	Total Views
Adult Protective Capacity: Emotive Domain	45
Adult Protective Capacity: Behavioral Domain	67
Child Vulnerability: Cognitive Domain	61
Child Vulnerability: Emotional Domain	39
Child Vulnerability: Historical Domain	40
Child Vulnerability: Physical Domain	53
Safety Factor 1	160
Safety Factor 10	70
Safety Factor 3	98
Safety Factor 4	101
Safety Factor 5	82
Safety Factor 6	86
Safety Factor 7	77
Safety Factor 8	69
Safety Factor 9	85
Safety Factors 2 and 2a	113
Safety Factors vs. Safety Threats	146
What Are Child Vulnerabilities?	78
What is a Safety Factor?	78
What is an Adult Protective Capacity?	58
Grand Total	1697

In May and June 2025, 22 micro-videos on the assessment of risk will be released.

Additionally, OUCCAS employs a Transfer of Learning Specialist who partners directly with PCSAs to support field-based coaching and transfer efforts. This Specialist has worked with trainers, county staff and administrators to implement strategies for reinforcing Core concepts through side-by-side coaching, targeted conversations, and planning activities. The TOL Specialist has worked closely with seven PCSAs on their TOL practices and received very positive feedback. To increase the awareness of the TOL Specialist, the program plans to implement a statewide communication and marketing strategy.

FY 24 Conclusions

In FY24, activities under Objective 4 demonstrated Ohio's sustained and coordinated commitment to strengthening PCSA staff competencies. Training initiatives emphasized alignment with the CAPM and the functionality of Ohio SACWIS, targeting key practice areas such as safety assessment, case planning, documentation, and the application of critical thinking in decision-making. Training was delivered through diverse modalities including instructor-led training (ILT), self-directed courses (SDCs), virtual sessions, microlearning videos, and integrated coaching strategies.

OCWTP played a central role in promoting statewide consistency in CAPM implementation while supporting regional flexibility. This approach ensured both fidelity and contextual relevance in training delivery.

Enhancement of Professional Skills and Practices

- **Safety Assessment and Planning:** Caseworkers improved their ability to identify safety threats and develop actionable, family-centered safety plans through CAPM- and SACWIS-integrated training. Real-case applications deepened model comprehension and enhanced practice quality.
- **Documentation and Case Management:** Continued emphasis on documentation standards improved the clarity, quality, and defensibility of case narratives. Training supported the development of individualized, effective service plans.
- **Virtual and On-Demand Learning:** Virtual learning options and SDCs remained highly utilized, sustaining accessibility and flexibility for staff across regions.
- **Learning Labs and GAP Sessions:** Strategic use of learning labs and Guided Application and Practice (GAP) sessions facilitated the transfer of learning. Caseworkers engaged in multiple opportunities for skills practice using the CAPM tools, yielding measurable improvements in confidence and application.

Feedback and Continuous Improvement

- **Training Relevance and Satisfaction:** Learner feedback consistently rated training content as highly relevant and applicable, with satisfaction scores frequently exceeding 4.5 out of 5.0. These ratings underscore the effectiveness of training in preparing staff and supervisors for their roles.
- **Curriculum Updates and Trainer Development:** Courses were regularly updated to reflect current laws, policies, and best practices. The standardized OUCCAS trainer approval process ensured high-quality delivery and responsiveness to evolving training needs.

The strategic focus on training development, delivery, and continuous improvement has enhanced the competencies of Ohio's child protection workforce. OCWTP's adaptability ensured training quality amid external challenges and expanded reach through virtual platforms. Ongoing feedback mechanisms and data-informed revisions have supported a responsive and sustainable training infrastructure.

By investing in workforce capacity, Ohio is fostering more consistent, safe, and effective child protection practices. Staff are increasingly equipped to manage the complexities of the work with professionalism, consistency, and care.

Quality Legal Representation

Ohio CAPTA State Grant funds were combined with Federal Children's Justice Act Funds to improve legal preparation and representation including provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings through a contract with the Ohio Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Funding is used to recruit, screen and train volunteers from local communities to help juvenile courts keep children safe and determine the child's best interest.

The department engaged in the following initiatives to help improve the quality of legal representation:

1. NACC Child Welfare Attorney Training

Ohio continued to partner with the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) for training and resources that promote high quality legal representation. Based on feedback from surveys and a training participant focus group, NACC developed an updated Ohio specific child welfare attorney training. The virtual three series training was held in February 2025. It was designed for Ohio attorneys who represent children, parents, Juvenile or Family Court Staff, Children's Services Staff or any community professionals working in children services law. The training included practice tips, and hypothetical case studies, grounded in Ohio law, to share knowledge, skills, and best practices aimed at promoting high quality representation in children services cases.

2. Multidisciplinary Legal Representation Pilot

As the project enters its fourth year of implementation, the third-year evaluation report has been finalized. The findings are based on comprehensive site visits to each of the six pilot programs, facilitated focus groups and interviews with 48 pilot staff and judges, and an analysis of aggregate program and expenditure data. Additionally, the report incorporates insights from program materials and reports submitted by the pilots, as well as observations from technical assistance sessions and an all-pilot convening.

Using framework analysis, the research team identified key themes and patterns, drawing on research literature and developments in the field to provide context and depth to the findings. By the end of the third year, the program had served more than 350 families and 800 children. The majority of families participating in the program did not experience further involvement in the child welfare system after enrollment. Eighty-eight percent of pilot cases resulted in successful outcomes. In five of the six pilot sites, 90% of cases did not involve new allegations, and among those that did, only 2% were substantiated child maltreatment allegations. Among 84 pre-petition cases, 92% did not progress to formal court filings, and children remained safely in their homes in 94% of these cases.

Ohio's Multi-Disciplinary Legal Representation Pilot Program Convening was held on November 19 and November 20, 2024, at the Supreme Court of Ohio. Participants from all six pilot sites attended.

3. Specialized Attorney Training

Ohio CASA provided free specialized training to 130 Attorneys at the Annual Celebrate Kids! Conference. The conference was held in September 2024 with over 700 attendees. The attorneys who came from across the state of Ohio received continuing legal education relevant to child welfare and advocating for the best interest of children.

4. CASA

CAPTA support enabled Ohio's CASA Network to:

- Maintain a community of over 2,500 volunteers.
- Represent an average of 5,818 children in court each month.
- Make CASA programming accessible to approximately 87% of Ohio's juvenile judges.
- Grow to 48 programs serving 62 counties.
- Continue to Increase volunteers who are male, a recruitment goal.

CAPTA support was integral to multiple program components, including:

Training

- Pre-Service: Ohio supported over 400 volunteers' completion of the 30-hour pre-service training. Completion is required prior to judicial swearing-in or appointment and is established for volunteer certification by the National CASA/GAL Association. This training is CAPTA-supported and supplemented with local court-specific and procedural training.
- In-Service: Over 2,322 CASA Volunteers (may include duplicate numbers) participated in CAPTA-supported in-service training outside of Ohio CASA's Celebrate Kids! Conference. (Note: programs also host/participate in in-service training supported outside CAPTA funding) Featured training fell into categories similar to prior years', a reminder that volunteers see their needs as relatively consistent:
 - Skills/Best Practices
 - Court Processes and Legal Requirements
 - Understanding and Responding to Trauma and Grief
 - Self-Care and Safety
 - Working with and Advocating for Special Populations
 - Mental Health
 - Addiction and Substance Misuse
 - Community Collaboratives, Resources and Partners
 - Programs Supporting Children and Families
 - Understanding Children Services; Building Relationships
 - Developmental and Physical Health of Children
 - Engaging the Community; Professional Conduct
 - Facilitated Group Conversations; Case Reviews; Problem Solving
- On-line: 1,446 individuals completed CAPTA-supported training hosted on the Ohio CASA website.
- Four Directors' Meetings: These quarterly meetings bring together all program directors and, if requested, senior staff to hear updates on best practices, resources and opportunities, national and state policy, legislation, trends, and local program operations. These meetings also provide

opportunities for programs to raise issues they are facing, and for peer-to-peer case review and discussion.

- Regional Meetings: These meetings are planned with leaders of geographically aligned programs to bring together program staff to discuss common issues and resources. These meetings also may be designed as partnership meetings, including various resource partners from the counties involved.

Ohio CASA 2024 Celebrate Kids! Conference

Purpose

Ohio CASA's Celebrate Kids! Conference is not a fund-raising activity. Ohio CASA's intent is to maintain financial accessibility for Ohio's CASA Volunteers and program staff through sponsorships and grants, keeping costs to participants at a minimum.

The purposes of the conference are to:

- Meet the mandated continuing educational needs of Ohio's volunteer and attorney guardians ad litem.
- Improve outcomes for children in Ohio's juvenile courts as a result of abuse or neglect by enhancing skills of the individuals who serve them.
- Provide peer-to-peer opportunities for educational growth; and,
- Celebrate the contributions of those working with Ohio's most vulnerable youth, especially Ohio's network of CASA volunteers.

The 2024 Ohio CASA Celebrate Kids! Conference was held September 25-27, at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus. Over 700 individuals attended the event, making it the largest in the conference's 29-year history.

The conference featured two plenaries and a menu of 32 workshop choices. Speakers presented on a range of topics that focused on developing skills and adding knowledge that would enhance participants' ability to serve the children they represent.

- Both Plenary speakers had lived experience in the child welfare system, and each approached from a different perspective. Each also was very highly rated, with comments indicating that future events should continue to feature speakers able to contribute personal insight from lived experience.
- The highest rated workshops featured information on drug usage and identification, or court skills.
- The least preferred workshops tended to focus on agency-centered services, as they were viewed as giving little enhancement to practical skills.

The educational offerings were highly rated; 97.25% of the evaluations characterized the experience as providing extremely valuable, skill-building information that was new to them.

The conference had 52 speakers, ranging from nationally recognized speakers to local program representatives. Most desired workshops (e.g., those with the largest attendance) tended to feature judicial and court personnel.

There were many comments regarding the affordability of the conference. With an (often waived) \$150 registration, capped hotel costs, free parking and professional education accreditation, and in-conference meals, it is the most financially accessible conference of its kind.

Continuing Professional Education

Conference attendees were able to receive up to 12 hours of approved Sup.R.48 continuing education hours, fully meeting The Supreme Court of Ohio's continuing education requirements for attorney guardians ad litem without cost.¹

Upon request, participants were offered 12 hours of free Continuing Legal Education from The Supreme Court of Ohio and 12 hours of Continuing Education Units from the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. Twelve sessions were approved by The Supreme Court for Attorney Professional Conduct credit; five sessions were approved by the Ohio Counselor, social Workers and Family Therapist Board for Ethics credit.

Participant Composition

- 58% percent of conference attendees were CASA volunteers.
- 86% of the current CASA Program Directors were in attendance.
- 40% of the conference attendees indicated that this was their first time in attendance; 60% were returnees. The “first time” versus “returnee” is affected by the methodology of how scholarships are distributed by local programs.
- At least ten counties without a current CASA program were represented.

Exhibitors

Exhibitors were by invitation and were selected for providing services which volunteers and other professionals would benefit from knowing as a resource for the children and families they serve. There was no cost associated with exhibition. Exhibitors were:

- Aetna/Ohio Rise
- Bridges
- CareSource
- CasaManager
- Ohio Department of Children and Youth
- Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
- Ohio Domestic Violence Network
- Ohio Legal Help
- Prevention Action Alliance
- Youth and Family Ombudsman

¹ Sup.R.48 requires six hours of approved annual training for attorney and volunteer guardians ad litem; National CASA standards annually require 12 hours of approved training for CASA Volunteers.

Sample Comments

- The Conference was well organized, and the Hyatt is ideal for a group that big.
- Both the Plenary Speakers were incredible!
- The CASA Connect reception was a classy addition.
- The sessions I attended were very interactive and I learned a lot.
- It was inspiring to see so many in attendance.
- I got a lot of useful information from the vendors that were set up.
- The conference was very well organized, and information was relevant. The keynote speakers were phenomenal. I appreciate the cost being kept low for the conference and rooms.
- I found it very valuable to spend time interacting with CASA from other counties and learning from them.
- I already have blocked out next year on my calendar.

Expansion and Accountability

CAPTA funding enabled:

- The addition of two new programs, serving three counties. Although Ohio CASA will continue to work with judicial officers who wish to establish new programming, future efforts will focus on expanding capacity of existing programs through recruitment and retention. This is seen as enabling service for the greatest number of available children.
- Work with:
 - Court-based programs to establish a non-profit arm.
 - Various changes of governance. This could include:
 - Programs joining or realigning to form multi-county programs. Some smaller or rural counties have found a multi-county program to make financial and resource sense. Currently, 23% of Ohio's programs serve multiple counties, and 40% of CASA counties in Ohio are part of a multi-county program.
 - Programs moving from a court-based to non-profit structure.
- Program Self-Assessment: Work individually with each program to:
 - Complete a comprehensive self-assessment as required by national standards.
 - Identify steps to compliance when shown to be out-of-compliance on any item. Items of non-compliance generally are caused either by data entry errors or misreading of the intent of the requested information.
 - Resolve issues with National CASA/GAL Association when items conflict with program governance (e.g., court-based programs).
- Data Collection: Ohio CASA continues to work closely with programs' two data collection and case management platforms, CasaManager and Optima, to improve quality and comprehensiveness of data collection.
- State Advisory Boards and Workgroups: Ohio CASA staff represented local programs and CASA Volunteers on a range of temporary and standing work groups hosted by state-level partners.
- National Participation
Ohio CASA staff and board members remained actively engaged on a national level to ensure understanding of emerging trends and programs, as well as policies that could affect operations. In addition to various committees and work groups, Ohio CASA was actively

engaged in “affinity groups” comprised of comparable managers in other states’ programs. Program grouping included:

- State Directors
- Governance and Administration
- Standards
- Human Resources
- Development and Resources
- Communications

Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment

To implement a level of quality control and consistency, as well as to absorb a portion of local program costs, Ohio CASA began efforts to elevate recruitment to a state level. While local programming always will participate in local outreach efforts, Ohio CASA was able to utilize CAPTA funds to take on a number of functions that are common in goal across all programs level, resulting in early increases in children served and in targeted volunteers. Efforts included:

- Weekly graphics and postings for social media accounts including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X (Twitter).
- Multiple templates easily customized for local program use. Examples include: Frequently Asked Questions, CASA 101, Yearly Results, What is a CASA, and various brochures and PowerPoints.
- Development and management of multiple programs’ websites; customization and development of websites.
- Strategic marketing plans for rural counties.
- Individualized recruitment plans.
- PSAs and video edits.
- News stories; participation in local interviews; work with local television and radio programming.
- Direct on-site work with programs on recruitment and marketing topics upon request.
- Presentations at each of Ohio’s law schools.

Retention

Although engaging as a CASA Volunteer is a difference-making and rewarding experience, it also can be an emotionally taxing, long-term commitment. Programs constantly seek ways to support volunteers through peer-to-peer and staff support, group activities, and various ways of recognizing their contributions to the community. Ohio CASA staff regularly participate in these local events, often providing remarks and social media exposure. Ohio CASA also hosted state-level celebrations of Ohio’s CASA volunteer network in addition to the Celebrate Kids’ recognition:

- CASA Day at the Statehouse: Held in April as recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the event was held in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda and hosted by the Ohio CASA Executive Board of Directors. It was attended by approximately 200 individuals, including local program staff and volunteers, legislators, court personnel and state and community partners. The event included a panel of speakers who spoke of their experiences with CASA programming from various professional and lived perspectives.

- CASA Day at the Ballpark
 - Ohio CASA coordinated a statewide, summer volunteer appreciation and public awareness campaign in collaboration with Ohio major and minor league baseball teams. Each team provided reserved large-group seating for CASA Volunteers and featured information regarding the mission for CASA programs and ways to become involved as a volunteer or supporter. Ballpark events included a range of social media exposure and various volunteer recognitions, including activities such as:
 - First pitch.
 - Volunteer parade around the bases.
 - Ball delivery
 - Frequent exposure on in-park screens.
 - Over 900 CASA Volunteers and family members attended; each was provided with a ticket and identifying tee shirt.
 - Participating teams:
 - Cincinnati Reds
 - Cleveland Guardians
 - Dayton Dragons
 - Toledo Mudhens
 - Southern Ohio Copperheads.
- Savannah Bananas

Ohio CASA worked with the Savannah Bananas to provide information on CASA programming at its three Ohio-based games at Progressive Field (Cleveland Guardians) and Huntington Field (Columbus Clippers). CASA Volunteers and foster parents were recognized on-field at each game.

Objective 5: Developing and implementing procedures for collaboration among child protective services, domestic violence services, and other agencies.

Safe & Together Update

Ohio has provided The Safe & Together™ CORE training since 2010. This training comprehensively introduces domestic violence using a perpetrator pattern-based, child-centered, and survivor strengths approach. The training is developed for child protective services. It goes beyond a primer on domestic violence to teach practical skills and tools rooted in child protective assessments, interviews, documentation, and case planning.

Prior to July 1, 2022, Safe & Together was managed via a contract with the Family and Youth Law Center through Capital University’s Law School. At the end of that contract, DCY transferred the management of the training to Ohio’s University Consortium for Child and Adult Services, the current State Coordinator for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. The OCWTP is responsible for providing the following three Safe & Together Modules to public child protection caseworkers and supervisors:

- Domestic Violence Fundamentals and the Effects on Adult and Child Victims
- Safe & Together: Domestic Violence-Informed Documentation and Case Planning
- Domestic Violence: Facts and Fundamentals

Funding was also provided to replace an Ohio Safe & Together trainer in the case of attrition of Ohio’s current six certified trainers.

With this transition, Ohio no longer facilitates:

- The Ohio Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Collaborative (a multi-faceted initiative aimed at building IPV response competency within child protective services agencies).
- Training for community partners.
- Quarterly meetings between Ohio Safe & Together trainers and staff at the Safe & Together Institute.
- Specialized domestic violence training on substance abuse, mental health, and other intersecting problems facilitated through the Safe & Together Institute.

OCWTP Domestic Violence Training Summary

Between July 1, 2024, to current a total of 3,113 learning hours of Safe & Together training was completed by a total of 283 Caseworkers or Supervisors.

OCWTP currently offers three courses that fulfill statutory requirements for training child welfare workers to be responsive to county training needs, particularly in the area of domestic violence. Each course includes 11 hours of content, with flexible scheduling. Below is a summary of learner completion across the three available trainings:

1. Domestic Violence Fundamentals and the Effects on Adult and Child Victims
 - a. Learners Completed: 44
2. Domestic Violence: Facts and Fundamentals
 - a. Learners Completed: 116
3. Safe and Together: Domestic Violence-Informed Assessments and Interviews
 - a. Learners Completed: 123

Total Learners Trained: 283

OCWTP has provided training on domestic violence for over thirty years. All new caseworkers are required to take mandated domestic violence training within their first two years. In addition to the mandated training, the OCWTP offers a range of ongoing domestic violence modules.

2024-2025 Milestones

Case Planning Content Addressed in Safe and Together Second Module: The Safe & Together Foundation Course is divided into two modules that are each two days long. Days one and two focus on the dynamics of domestic violence and address Ohio's mandate that new caseworkers receive domestic violence training that covers required concepts. As a result, this training had more attendees. The second module (days three and four) focuses on skill-building and specifically addresses case planning. This module addresses safety and case planning issues related to children, perpetrators, and survivors of domestic violence. In addition to outlining concrete strategies and meaningful tools for case planning, a case planning grid is shared, and learners are given a chance to apply what they learned using one of their own cases. Unfortunately, this module was not as well attended as the first.

To address this issue, the OCWTP approached and received permission from the Safe & Together Institute to rename the two modules (new titles noted above.). The days 3 and 4 of the training were renamed "Safe & Together: Domestic Violence-Informed Case Planning and Documentation". This will

make it clear that case planning is a key focus of the content and will facilitate more targeted outreach for the topic. In the new CAPS LMS, learners searching by subject or topic will pull up this module when searching for training related to “case planning.” This change was implemented in August 2023.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Fully Integrated in New Core Training for Caseworkers: The OCWTP revised Ohio’s core training for new caseworkers to highlight three key practice areas prevalent in child protection cases: substance use, mental health, and intimate partner violence (IPV). Each key practice area has a self-directed, foundational course that provides an overview of the issues and best practices for caseworkers when working in any of the three areas. As new caseworkers continue through the series, the key practice areas are reinforced during instructor-led training, allowing them to practice key skills when working with these cases. This means that when learning about case planning, new caseworkers will practice developing case plans specifically related to IPV.

Objective 6: Developing and delivering information to improve public education relating to the roles and responsibilities of the child protection system.

The following reference manuals continue to be available, and copies are distributed when CPS program staff provide mandated reporter training, nurses training, and teachers in-service training. Additionally, copies are provided to Ohioans upon request and encouraged to be used as a desk reference. The manuals help the target audience to understand: the difference between an injured child and an abused child; how to interact with a child who is suspected to be abused or neglected; and how to report concerns of a maltreated child to a PCSA. Also included is information on Ohio’s child protection system.

- *The Child Abuse and Neglect - A Reference for Medical Professionals*
- *The Child Abuse and Neglect - A Reference for the Community*
- *The Child Abuse and Neglect - A Reference for Educational Professionals*

Trafficking

DCY has added and hired a position dedicated to human trafficking. The anti-human trafficking program specialist will be working on improving child welfare’s capacity to identify and service victims of human trafficking and increase access to benefits for foreign national victims of human trafficking. These goals will be accomplished through education, training, and assisting with policy development and implementation.

CARA

DCY’s Bureau of Children Services Policy and Supports has continued to focus on educating and training Ohio’s counties and their community partners on federal legislation regarding CARA and PoSC. These education and training programs created in partnership with the PPA focus specifically on each county’s specific needs. Establishing a consistent and structured process to ensure families impacted by SUD have a PoSC in place at the time of the impacted infants discharge from the hospital after delivery and following delivery is the goal.

Training specific to each system and their individual needs is presented throughout the year. Collaboration between the multi-systems has been stressed in education and training for the following: medical partners, behavioral health organizations, mental health providers, substance abuse

treatment agencies and community providers who serve infants and families impacted by substance abuse, particularly newborn infants.

Staff from the Bureau of Children Services Policy and Support utilize a two-tiered education and training process with each community. An initial training occurs with PCSA staff to identify CARA criteria and identify the strengths and barriers within the community which impact working with infants, children, and families to ensure a structured process is in place to support the development and monitoring of PoSC. For the second phase, local community stakeholders attend the training to better understand CARA responsibilities across systems and address processes and responsibilities for CARA to better execute at the local level.

Additional training and support are available to counties at any time and these requests have always been met by Staff from the Bureau of Children Services Policy and Support staff. Education continues with the focus on collaboration between the medical community and children services and the creation of a Core PoSC Team. The department continues to present CARA during in person trainings, at conferences, web-based/virtual trainings, listening sessions, conference calls and through information sharing via the internet. Enhancement of developmental resources, services, and educational materials to support this goal will continue.

The department, in partnership with the Ohio Practice and Policy Academy, released the *Plan of Safe Care Toolkit* and the *Ohio Healthy Families Handbook*. The toolkit provides foundational information on CARA, statewide programs available to support substance exposed and substance affected infants and their families, best practice for Plans of Safe Care, and outlines the steps to developing a collaborative core team. The Ohio Healthy Families Handbook includes trainings and educational materials surrounding CARA/PoSC. These trainings and educational materials are available to community providers as well as families.

In 2022 the Practice and Policy Academy partnered with Governor Mike DeWine's office and created several pages devoted to CARA/PoSC on their official website, Bold Beginning! With the creation of the Department of Children and Youth, the Bold Beginning! Website and all CARA/PoSC information has been transitioned to DCY's website.

The department continues to distribute educational brochures on the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and Plans of Safe Care (PoSC) across the state. These brochures are also available on the Department of Children and Youth website to download and print. Both brochures, one identified for community providers and the other for expectant mothers and their families, are available. The brochures are available in three languages, English, Spanish and Somali. The department can have them translated in additional languages if necessary. The brochures have been distributed to all PCSAs, delivering hospitals, and collateral agencies who work with infants and impacted families. The brochures are available for additional mailings at any time requested.

Over the past year, The Bureau of Children Services Policy and Supports has joined forces with several other of DCY's workgroups and Bureaus to coordinate efforts and ensure the various committees and bureaus are not overlapping work and identifying any gaps and opportunities within Ohio's system to build a more comprehensive and coordinated response to infants and families identified as being impacted by SUD. but instead supporting and enhancing the work surrounding this population. The

following Ohio agencies are working together towards this goal, the Department of Health, Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Fatherhood Commission

The DCY Department of Children Services and Supports, in partnership with the Ohio Fatherhood Commission, has collaborated over the past year to provide incarcerated parents with essential information on effectively communicating with service providers while incarcerated — including those involved in open children services cases.

DCY participated in five events alongside the Fatherhood Commission, reaching 190 service providers who support mothers and fathers across Ohio. In addition, DCY attended a conference at the Ohio Department of Corrections in Orient, Ohio, where 95 incarcerated adults received education on how to work with children services and maintain family connections during incarceration.

DCY also took part in a fatherhood conference hosted by the Department of Youth Services (DYS), offering guidance to 18 incarcerated youth who are fathers. Looking ahead, DCY is scheduled to participate in upcoming events at the Marysville Women’s Prison for a mothers' conference in May and June of 2025, and will return for the third consecutive year to the Grafton Correctional Institution's Fatherhood Conference in July 2025.

Beginning in October 2024, the DCY Department of Children Services and Supports in collaboration with the Fatherhood Commission partnered with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to revise and enhance the *Strengthening Bonds and Creating Connections Toolkit*. Originally developed by ODRC and Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2017, the toolkit is designed to support caregivers, loved ones, and professionals in caring for children with an incarcerated parent.

ODRC led a collaborative workgroup that included DCY, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Department of Youth Services, and other key stakeholders. Together, the group conducted a comprehensive review and update of the toolkit to ensure it reflects current best practices and resources. The updated toolkit is scheduled for statewide distribution in June 2025.

Memorandum of Understanding

County MOUs are required to be signed by the County Department of Job and Family Services/PCSA, law enforcement entities, juvenile court, the county prosecutor, local animal cruelty reporting agencies, and the CAC (if applicable). Their purpose is to establish normal operating procedures by all signatories in completing their respective responsibilities, with the goals of eliminating unnecessary interviews and providing only one interview of children who are the subjects of child abuse or neglect reports. DCY maintains a fillable document containing all legally required information, such as the county’s system of receiving reports of child abuse and/or neglect, roles, and responsibilities for handling emergency cases of child abuse and/or neglect and dependency, and standards and procedures to be used in handling and coordinating investigations of reported cases of child abuse and/or neglect. This fillable document is an optional resource for counties, who are permitted to prepare their own MOUs in accordance with state law and administrative rule. Prior to 2023, PCSAs drafted their MOUs individually and did not have the option of using a standardized template.

Counties are responsible for having their MOUs biennially approved by their County Board of Commissioners and submitted to DCY for compliance determination. Once approved, each county is

to post their MOU to their county's public website. A list of county MOU compliance is being migrated from the ODJFS website to the DCY website.

Objective 7: Supporting and enhancing interagency collaboration among public health agencies, agencies in the child protective service system, and agencies carrying out private community-based programs.

Department of Children and Youth

Governor Mike DeWine signed the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 into law on July 5, 2023. Contained within the budget bill, a new state agency was established, DCY. DCY combines programs from six different state agencies, including programs from the ODJFS. With the establishment of DCY on July 5, 2023, the administration of the Basic State Grant was transferred from the ODJFS to DCY effective July 1, 2024.

The programs under the direction of DCY include, but are not limited to:

- **Identification:** Children Services, Home Visiting, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Maternal and Infant Vitality Programming
 - **Early Education:** Early Intervention, Publicly Funded Child Care, Early Childhood Education, Preschool Special Education, Licensing, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
 - **Support:** Ohio Fatherhood Commission, Ohio Family Children First Council, Healthy Beginnings at Home, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, Strong Families, Safe Communities
- The Ohio Department of Children and Youth's mission is to promote positive, lifelong outcomes for Ohio youth through early intervention, quality education, and family support programs.

Goals

- **Reduce Infant Mortality.** Support more children in surviving and thriving and through their first birthday.
- **Reduce Learning Gaps.** Ensure continuity of care across all ages, developmental stages, and services to help children and youth reach their full potential.
- **Reduce Involvement with Child Welfare.** Provide families with proactive resources and support to address needs before a crisis occurs.

Principles

The goals will be achieved through:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Focus & Prioritization
- Maintaining Local Structure (strong network of local providers and partners)

Pillars

These essential components support DCY's mission and goals. They are the strength behind the department.

- **Continuum of Care** – Delivering timely, targeted support to children and youth- meeting their needs where and when they arise.
- **Workforce** – Attracting and maintaining quality, competent professionals working on behalf of children to match needs across the state.

- **Service Coordination** – Working together to support the well-being and future success of all children.

CARA/PoSC Collaboration

DCY's Bureau of Children Services Policy and Supports has continued to collaborate with many partners to ensure federal legislation surrounding CARA/PoSC is followed.

The department continues to partner with the PPA which includes representatives from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction, the Governor's office, Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Department of Disabilities, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative, medical hospital, and representatives from county child welfare offices. This partnership has allowed Ohio to integrate CARA/PoSC practices consistently across Ohio. In addition, The Bureau of Children Services Policy and Supports has joined forces with several other of DCY's workgroups and Bureaus to coordinate efforts and ensure the various committees and bureaus are not overlapping work and identifying any gaps and opportunities within Ohio's system to build a more comprehensive and coordinated response to infants and families identified as being impacted by SUD. but instead supporting and enhancing the work surrounding this population. The following DCY departments are working together towards this goal, the Department of Health, Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This work will continue as CARA is a national federal requirement which impacts multi-systems across the state.

Objective 8: Improving the skills, qualifications, and availability of individuals providing services to children and families, and the supervisors of such individuals, through the child protection system, including improvements in the recruitment and retention of caseworkers.

Ohio CPS Fellowship Program

The department implemented the Ohio CPS Fellowship Program to recruit and train potential child protective service professionals. The program is designed to respond to the challenges of recruitment and retention of children services professionals in Ohio. Turnover is accelerating, wages are rising, and competition from outside employers is causing a workforce crisis. Traditional recruitment techniques and programs are not adequately meeting the needs of Ohio's PCSAs. Additionally, the length of time needed to train and onboard new staff puts additional pressures on the system.

The fellowship program employs a Program Manager, two full-time coordinators who work with the students enrolled in the program and the PCSA's they are placed with, and a Recruiter who is responsible for the relationships with the college programs and screening the student applicants. The Recruiter actively engages with local colleges and universities sharing information about this innovative student learning opportunity. Prospective students are encouraged to apply for a fellowship student position. Students are interviewed and complete a shadowing experience before being accepted into the project. CAPTA, DCY, and PCSAO funds allow for fellowship students to enroll as paid students working up to 26 hours per week earning \$15 per hour. The students work in the field at CPS offices three days per week and engage in CORE training two evenings per week. The students also have the ability to earn a \$500 incentive after the first six months of the program and up to an additional \$500 upon completion of the program. The project's initial goal was to onboard up to 20 students in the first year. The program has a rolling admission based on student timelines. During FY24, 24 students completed the program. Of those 24 students seven have accepted employment as full-time CPS Case

Workers. Additionally, two students have accepted employment in related fields. Capacity has been expanded to serve up to 30 students at a time. Also, the number of counties participating in the program has expanded to 37 counties. Fellowship students are provided with individualized learning plans. These plans are guided by children service training requirements, provided by the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program and additional agency training to prepare students for hire in any Ohio PCSA upon graduation. Training opportunities include:

- 120 hours of required Caseworker CORE
- 12 hours of required Domestic Violence Training
- 1 hour of required Human Trafficking Training
- ODJFS Caseworker Onboarding
- Self-care and Secondary Trauma
- Trauma Informed Training

The required children services training is reinforced by work related shadowing opportunities. Fellowship students may be paired with mentors when engaging with children and families to support application of their learning. Additional learning exercises are provided to students to integrate what has been learned and support transfer of learning. Examples of supplemental learning exercises are reviewing OAC, completion a case contact form after an encounter in the field, and completion of self-assessments exploring individual strengths and areas for development as prospective children services professionals.

The fellowship project ensures the following for all students and participating PCSA's:

- Provides training and onboarding to eligible college students in their last year of undergraduate study in a Social Science field of study.
- Engages college students and develops a path to careers in child protective services (CPS) through development of a fellowship program within the CPS space.
- Creates an opportunity of earlier training and mentoring of incoming talent to a broader array of candidates utilizing the studies/fields related to social sciences and childhood development.

Student participants in the program will:

- Receive work experience in the field as well as required caseworker training.
- Function as part-time employees and provide a needed labor force to participating PCSAs.
- Gain meaningful work experience in Children Services.
- Assess their interest in this field.
- Develop a support network.
- Have employment opportunities immediately after post-graduation.

Participating PCSAs will:

- Have additional labor, in times of a labor shortage.
- Workforce assistance with supervision of visits, front desk registration, phone screening, support visits to clients, document processing.
- Recruitment of employees with required state trainings completed.
- Hire employees with work experience and expectations of child protective services work.

The program will work with any college that a student attends and can work in an Ohio County. This includes colleges in other states or online programs.

The related degrees students participating in the Project or expressing interest in participating in the Project include:

- Criminal Justice
- Forensic Investigation
- Forensic Psychology
- Homeland Security
- Human Development
- Human Development and Family Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Budget

CAPTA Funds	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	SFY 2025
CRP	\$ 292,288.00	\$ 292,288.00	\$292,288.00	
CSSP	\$ 49,998.39	\$ 50,000.00		
DAS				
CASA GAL	\$ 609,701.64	\$ 703,014.00	\$ 703,014.00	\$719,514.00
Children's Alliance	\$ 12,083.83	\$ 10,500.00		
OSU	\$ 292,288.00	\$ 272,894.00		\$272,894.00
Communities of Support/CARA	\$ 507,734.13	\$ 1,420,000.00		
ChiByDesign	\$ 306,667.00			
Global Orphan Project	\$ 57,992.31	\$ 300,000.00		
Mandated Reporter Portal and Licenses		\$ 4,838,786.02	\$ 1,226,448.74	
Workforce Fellowship Grant		\$ 227,184.00		
Screening Guidelines Materials		\$ 30,700.00		
Youth Advisory Board		\$ 10,500.00		
Tiered Foster Care Implementation		\$ 750,000.00		
YCPRT			\$ 475,000.00	\$525,000.00
CCWIS CARA Portal/ Central Registry				\$2,801,015.63
Focus on Youth-Family Registration Kits				\$8,884.13
Total	\$ 2,128,753.30	\$ 8,905,866.02	\$ 2,696,750.74	\$4,327,307.76

CAPTA Coordinator: Denielle Rittinger

Address:

Ohio Department of Children & Youth
 246 N. High Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: Denielle.Ell-Rittinger@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

Website Location: **None**

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Ohio continues planning discussions for the use of funds received from the American Rescue Planning Act (ARPA). Activities and funding will support programming in improving risk and safety assessment tools, implementation of CARA Communities of Support, implementation of multidisciplinary teams, screening, family search and engagement, updating systems, enhancing, and supporting interagency collaboration. Discussions have identified the following initiatives which can be supported by ARPA funds.

- CST-Tiered Caseworker Career Pathway
- CST- Consistent Screening Decision
- CST- Reducing Organizational Red Tape

In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) utilized the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention supplemental funding provided through ARPA to bolster prevention funding at the local level, enhance funding for current initiatives, and develop and implement new initiatives to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect. As this funding period is winding down, OCTF has streamlined its efforts and has prioritized implementing four different supportive services with ARPA funds, which include concrete supports for families engaged in regional prevention programs, Triple P Online Program and Statewide Expansion, Family Success Network Expansion sites, and Family Fun Events.

FFY 2024 represented the second year that OCTF offered Ohio's 8 Regional Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils an opportunity to provide concrete support to families receiving child abuse prevention services across the state. This much needed additional support was provided to 1,296 families engaged in prevention services who received more than 1,800 items to meet the unique needs of their families. The top five concrete support categories were food items and delivery, housing support, transportation and vehicle repairs, household necessities, and educational and employment clothing and supplies. Five of these eight regions were also offered an opportunity to elevate parent and family voice through five regional family fun events. These events were convened in partnership with community members and offered an opportunity for families to engage with local service providers for parenting support, promoted family engagement and communication, and connected parents/caregivers to local resources. OCTF also continued to provide the Triple P Online Program at no cost to all families across Ohio, as well as supporting ongoing professional capacity building in the Triple P model. A total of 13,423 people registered for TPOL in FFY 2024, with an additional 319 training slots being filled for professionals to be accredited in this model. Finally, OCTF utilized ARPA funds to support the expanded Family Success Network (FSN) sites. FSN combines a broad range of services, inclusive of evidence-based programs such as Triple P Levels 3 and 4, Transition to Independence Practice Model (TIP Model), Money 101, and Motivational Interviewing. Families who engage in these services can opt into various programming as it meets their unique needs. By the end of FFY 2024, the expansion sites received a total of 917 referrals and served a total of 492 families.

Recognizing that FFY 2025 represents that last year of funding, OCTF will focus exclusively on sustaining these programs and developing other avenues for state and local funding given their success and impact on families.

CAPTA Annual State Data Report Items

Child Protective Service Workforce

- Intake or reports filed in the previous year: 443
- Screening of such reports: 806
- Assessment of such reports: 2,563
- Investigation of such reports: 2,563

Data on the education, qualifications and training of personnel and demographic information of personnel (section 106(d) (10) (A-C))

Ohio has statutorily mandated educational requirements for child protective services casework staff hired after October 2000. Pursuant to [Section 5153.112 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#), caseworkers must possess a bachelor's degree in human services-related studies at the time of hire; have a bachelor's degree in any field and been employed for at least two years in a human services occupation; have an associate degree in human services-related studies; have completed at least sixty semester hours or the equivalent towards a degree in human services-related studies from an accredited institution of higher education; or have been employed for at least five years in a human services-related occupation. Individuals hired without a bachelor's degree in human services-related studies are required to obtain a job-related bachelor's degree within five years of the date of hire, unless the Executive Director of the PCSA waives this requirement for an employee in good standing who demonstrates an inability to meet this requirement due to hardship. Requirements for advancement are county defined.

Training requirements for caseworkers are outlined in [Section 5153.122 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) and [Rule 5180:2-33-55 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws](#). Caseworkers are required to complete core training within the first year of employment and 36 hours of training each year thereafter. Caseworkers are also required to complete domestic violence and human trafficking trainings within the first two years of employment.

Training requirements for supervisors are outlined in [Section 5153.123 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#) and [Rule 5180:2-33-56 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws](#). Supervisors are required to complete supervisory core training within the first year of continuous employment as a PCSA supervisor. After the first year of continuous employment, supervisors are required to complete 30 hours of training annually in areas relevant to the supervisor's assigned duties. Supervisors are also required to complete domestic violence and human trafficking trainings within the first two years of becoming a supervisor.

Training records for individual CPS personnel are maintained by the county agency through the Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) Learning Management System (LMS) that will manage access to learning content. Although this system has the capability of tracking the education, training and demographic information for county agency staff participating in training, the fields for collecting this information are not required.

Some education and demographic information on the statewide CPS workforce have been entered into individual person records created in Ohio CCWIS. However, this is not mandatory information for a person record and is not included for all caseworker person records entered by each agency. The

following tables reflect the available socio-demographic and educational level data of protective services caseworkers that are accessible from the system:

RACE	# EMPLOYEES
Multi race	8
Asian	0
African American	118
Other Pacific Islander	0
White	496
Undetermined	90
Unknown	85
Null	2097
Total	2894

AGE	# EMPLOYEES
20-30 Years	201
31-40 Years	186
41-50 Years	148
51-60 Years	68
61 Years & Over	17
Missing Data	2274
Total	2894

GENDER	# EMPLOYEES
Male	234
Female	1787
Unknown/Null Data	1073
Total	2894

The average caseload for child protective services workers responsible for intake, screening, assessment, and investigation of reports (section 106(d)(7)(B))

Caseload and workload requirements are defined by each county and not tracked at the state level. For this reporting year, Ohio again used Ohio CCWIS data to report workload data. When compiling this information, it was noted that personnel data fields are not mandatory and are frequently left blank. In addition, counties use different nomenclature to identify work units. Some counties use generic categories (e.g., Intake, Assessment, Ongoing) and others use county specific categories (e.g., Unit A, West Section, FAS 1).

As recorded in Ohio CCWIS (taking into consideration the inconsistencies with data recording noted above), the average caseload for an Intake Worker (screening, assessment/investigation) as of September 30, 2024, was 8.09 cases.

The average number and the maximum number of cases per worker and supervisor (section 106(d)(10)(D))

As a state-supervised, county-administered CPS system, staffing and workload policies are established by local agencies.

The number of children referred to child protective services under policies and procedures established to address the needs of infants born with and affected by illegal substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (section 106(d) (15))

There are data fields in Ohio’s CCWIS that capture information on children alleged at the time of the referral, to be affected by illegal substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This reporting information continues to improve and transform as we learn more about this population and how to treat families and children. Ohio’s enhancements to Ohio SACWIS have been deemed federally compliant with the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016. Changes were made to Ohio’s SACWIS system in October of 2016, which required users to answer a series of CARA related questions and flagged those cases for tracking purposes at the intake level and reassessed throughout the continuum of the case. Enhancements to data retrieval have occurred each year since improving Ohio’s ability to identify and serve this vulnerable population.

The number of children alleged to be impacted by FASD, illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms upon referral for FFY 2024 was 7,197. Of those referrals 1,657 were screened in and assigned

to Ohio's traditional pathway. There were 2,877 referrals screened in and assigned to Ohio's alternative response pathway. 2,606 referrals were screened out.

Of the 7,197 substance related referrals; 6,661 were identified as CARA infants.

The number of children under the age of three involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect that were eligible to be referred to agencies providing early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the number of these children referred to these early intervention services (section 106(d) (16))

Ohio identifies children eligible for referral to early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in Ohio CCWIS based on age and child abuse or neglect report disposition. Ohio SACWIS generates an "action item" for every case where the identified child victim in a substantiated child abuse or neglect report was under the age of three (3).

In FFY 2024, 4,119 children under age three (3) who had a substantiated child/abuse/neglect report were eligible to receive services under Help Me Grow.

Juvenile Justice Transfers

Ohio's juvenile offender cases are processed through the local juvenile court system. Based upon the alleged crime committed, a decision is made to either handle the case in the adult criminal justice system or through the juvenile court. The transfer of youth into the adult system is determined by either a judicial waiver, statutory exclusion, or through a prosecutorial waiver.

The department does not track juvenile offenders who may be tried in the adult court system. However, data is collected in Ohio CCWIS on the number of youth who are discharged from local PCSAs into a commitment/custodial status with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). This would follow adjudication on a delinquent offense, which requires a secure correctional setting.

In FFY 2024, 33 children exited from PCSA custody to commitment to the DYS. This reflects the total of legal custody status terminations recorded with a reason of 'Custody to DYS'. This does not include the number of children that are committed to DYS that are not in the legal custody status of a PCSA or not in the children services population.