**Department of Job & Family Services/Public Children Services Agency (PCSA)**

One of the unique functions and a mandate of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and County Family and Children First Councils is to coordinate child and family serving partners to identify and address the needs of children and families through ongoing planning, implementing effective strategies, monitoring & reporting, and evaluating progress toward achieving desired outcomes.

**Why you are here.**

* To help prevent custody relinquishment through utilization of community supports and to identify needed services to bring children home to their communities.
* To support family community services to prevent abuse/neglect; identify needs and gaps.
* To identify the proportion of families and children with disrupted home environments and requiring county custody.
* To provide child welfare efforts focused on reducing youth in custody and increasing the successful functioning of families in their homes.
* To advocate for access to financial resources, workforce, childcare and food security, reducing barriers for families.
* To provide representation for clinical committees and other Council committees.
* To encourage coordinated efforts within service coordination. Provide information and updates on your system of care, best practices, and the projects you are working on that others can assist with or simply need to be aware of.
* To help provide stability to families living in or just above poverty, as the Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) director provides a critical perspective regarding the public services and supports needed.
* To fulfill governance and fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the operational and fiscal operations of the council.

**How you can support the system of care efforts in our community.**

* Connect families with a range of services and supports made available through the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Plan, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits, publicly funded childcare, etc.  Governance and fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the operational and fiscal operations of the Council.
* Provide an important perspective to the council in terms of the status of some of the most vulnerable families in our county and changes in policy and practice that impact these families.
* Provide data on youth in custody, programs reducing the number of youths in custody, efficacy of programs that meet the needs (basic and those that promote economic independence) of families that result in reduced family disruption and other positive outcomes, abuse/neglect data; number of kids in foster care; and number of foster homes.
* Provide economic data, public assistance usage, childcare, and housing services data, and community feedback for [shared plan](https://fcf.ohio.gov/fcfc-resources/shared-plan-and-updates/shared-plans-and-shared-plan-update).
* Provide funding and pass-through funding for families and children.
* Provide in-kind supports with technology, payroll, office space, and/or supplies.