**Education**

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 ensure that educational resources and strategies align with the needs of families and children and to promote school activities and initiatives that foster a sense of community.
* To inform about career centers as they can promote career readiness, workforce development, collaboration with employers, and support transition age youth.
* To focus on needs of students with complex needs; help to reduce the number of expulsions and limited placements solutions for youth with significant behavior support needs; connect with mental health partners, public health, and family welfare partners to ensure physical, mental, and emotional needs of youth are met as community intervention. Youth do better in school when things at home are stable and supportive.
* To advocate for the education, developmental needs, and family involvement of all children.
* To provide an invaluable perspective in terms of the kinds of issues and needs that many of our community families are facing.  To emphasis the critical importance of schools and community systems working together to address many of these issues and needs.
* 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 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.**

* Share data regarding student performance data, family engagement data, special education data, kindergarten readiness, suspensions/expulsions, attendance, data regarding transition age youth readiness for workforce, absenteeism data, English language learner data, community feedback and other targeted programs that address social issues.
* Share number of kids in alternative settings; number of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and other student supports available; Provide guidance on services and successful supports needed in schools, community outpatient placements and other alternatives to increase access to beneficial learning opportunities (and limiting limited home instruction, for example) for youth with significant behavioral, developmental, and mental health needs.
* Share your needs assessments and strategic plans. Information on successful programs. Provide indicators for the [shared plan](https://fcf.ohio.gov/fcfc-resources/shared-plan-and-updates/shared-plans-and-shared-plan-update).
* Provide the best perspective on the issues children and families are facing and the emerging issues you are seeing.
* Assign staff to be part of family teams, to participate on Council Clinical committee and other subcommittees. Educate all school staff about the resources available through Family and Children First.
* Encourage coordinated efforts and reach out to other council members regarding your needs. Use council meetings as a place you can reach out to other systems and schools.
* Provide in-kind supports with technology, payroll, office space, and/or supplies.