**Family/Youth Representative**

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 use insights to help identify service gaps and support needs.
* To build trust between families/youth and system partners.
* To share real life experiences to promote meaningful connections and foster collaboration.
* To contribute to the council’s governance.
* To encourage family/youth participation.

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

* Ask crucial questions of families about service effectiveness and share results.
* Encourage family participation.
* Provide community need indicators for the council’s [Shared Plan](https://fcf.ohio.gov/fcfc-resources/shared-plan-and-updates/shared-plans-and-shared-plan-update).
* Share families/youth stories to highlight the involvement with agencies and amplify family/youth voice.
* Recruit other caregivers/youth to participate as a family/youth representative.
* Collect and share other parent/youth supports offered in the community with partners and families.
* Share lived experiences.
* Gather input from other families/youth.