



Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Application Guidelines

Background

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3109.17 (B)(2) allows the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) to, "Allocate funds to entities for the purpose of funding child abuse and child neglect prevention programs that have statewide significance and that have been approved by the children's trust fund board."

Any organization seeking OCTF funding for child abuse and child neglect prevention programming is required to comply with the application guidelines.

Introduction

The Ohio Legislature established the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) in 1984 to support efforts designed to prevent child abuse and neglect within the state. The mission of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families and safe children.

Governed by a board of 15 members, the OCTF is the State of Ohio's only publicly funded child abuse prevention agency. Together with our partners, the Trust Fund is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through funding, supporting, educating and promoting child abuse prevention awareness and services within communities statewide.

OCTF Strategic Plan

The OCTF's 2009 – 2014 strategic plan incorporates three critical areas: child maltreatment as a public health problem, promoting protective factors, and investing in evidence informed practices. In addition, the 2009–2014 strategic plan shifts the Trust Fund from focusing solely on funding prevention programs to prioritizing increased attention to consumer education, social marketing, and public policy initiatives.

Child maltreatment as a public health problem:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified child maltreatment as a serious public health problem. The CDC's social ecological model favors multi-faceted approaches to the prevention of child maltreatment – addressing not only the individual child or family's risk factors, but also the norms, beliefs, and social and economic systems that create the conditions for child maltreatment to occur.

To this end, the OCTF strategic plan includes a continuum of activities that address multiple levels of the model with the end goal of providing developmentally appropriate programming and sustaining holistic prevention efforts.

Promoting Protective Factors:

The OCTF seeks to fund programs that provide a framework for child abuse and neglect prevention by promoting an understanding of how building protective factors, in addition to reducing risk factors, can reduce maltreatment for young children and their families.

Promoting the protective factors allows programs and providers to promote healthy child development and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. This universal approach is effective in strengthening families long before risks of child abuse or neglect emerge.

Evidence Informed:

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund ensures effectiveness within Ohio's prevention network by investing in evidence of effectiveness that integrates professional experience and expertise in the context of families' culture, characteristics, and values with scientifically rigorous methodology. The Trust Fund is working to build the capacity for the "science of evidence" by partnering with federal and state entities on evaluation, needs assessments and logic modeling.

Goal 1: Educate and empower communities (Strong Communities)

Strategies:

1. Increase capacity within communities to support the needs of children and families by implementing effective early childhood development and family strengthening strategies.
2. Increase the awareness, understanding and promotion of protective factors while reducing risk factors that contribute to child maltreatment.
3. Increase awareness of the negative impact child maltreatment has on a community and state as a whole.
4. Increase availability of cost effective, evidence based and/or evidence informed programs and practices statewide.
5. Invest in statewide resource development by providing technical assistance and training.

Goal 2: Strengthen Families (Healthy Families and Safe Children)

Strategies:

1. Promote the healthy growth and development of children.
2. Increase awareness, understanding and promotion of protective factors to reduce the risk factors that contribute to child maltreatment.
3. Ensure families and children are linked with concrete solutions to temporary challenges.
4. Invest in statewide resource development by providing technical assistance and training.

Goal 3: Expand Prevention Advocacy and Engagement (State and Local Prevention Network)

Strategies:

1. Serve as independent convener of stakeholders to resolve identified concerns; be a catalyst for change.
2. Provide leadership to legislators and policymakers on child maltreatment prevention.
3. Establish the board as a leader and authority on child maltreatment prevention.
4. Partner with state agencies and stakeholders to identify data that will support investment in prevention.
5. Empower OCTF Board Members, drawing upon their individual area of expertise.

6. Build board capacity to serve as ambassadors to carry forward the OCTF mission and vision.

Goal 4: Create and maintain a strong OCTF infrastructure (money, people, processes and outcomes).

Strategies:

1. Invest in qualitative and quantitative research to promote evidence informed practice.
2. Invest in Continuous Quality Improvement.
3. Build a diverse financial infrastructure to support the Children’s Trust Fund’s strategic plan.
4. Invest in staff and board development by providing technical assistance and training.

The OCTF invests in child abuse and neglect prevention education programs in five areas: parenting programs, training for professionals, programs for children, home visiting programs and public awareness campaigns. These programs and campaigns must be designed specifically to prevent or reduce child abuse and neglect and they must collect, maintain and report outcome and evaluation data.

Instructions for Applying

- For calendar year 2016, interested organizations have four opportunities to apply to the OCTF for funding. Any organization wishing to apply is required to electronically submit a completed application packet to the OCTF by one of the following due dates:
 - **Friday, January 8, 2016**
 - **Friday, April 8, 2016**
 - **Friday, August 5, 2016**
 - **Friday, October 7, 2016**
- Each proposal will be considered by the OCTF Board. Any applicant who fails to submit a completed application packet to the Trust Fund will not receive consideration by the OCTF Board.
- Completed application packets should be emailed to:
OHIO_CHILDREN’S_TRUST_FUND@jfs.ohio.gov
(Please include the following in the subject line of your email: “Name of organization – REQUEST FOR OCTF FUNDING – per ORC 3109.17 (B)(2)”)
 - Once you submit your application packet electronically, you should receive an e-mail from the OCTF confirming receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail within two business days after submitting your application packet, please contact the OCTF.

Application Packet

Any organization seeking OCTF funding for child abuse and child neglect prevention programming must complete and submit an application packet for each proposed program.

As you complete your application packet, please consider the following:

- The OCTF can fund *only* primary and secondary prevention programs as outlined in section 3109.13 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Primary prevention is defined as “*activities and services provided to the public designed to prevent or reduce the prevalence of child abuse and child neglect before signs of abuse or neglect can be observed.*”

Secondary prevention is defined as “*activities and services that are provided to a specific population identified as having risk factors for child abuse and child neglect and are designed to intervene at the earliest warning signs of child abuse or child neglect, or whenever a child can be identified as being at risk of abuse or neglect.*”

The OCTF cannot fund tertiary prevention programs or services.

- All proposed program(s) must be designed *specifically* to prevent or reduce child abuse and neglect.
- All proposed program(s) must have statewide significance. Statewide significance is defined as, “programs that will benefit the state as a whole, can be replicated across the state within several counties and/or programs that are currently being implemented in a majority of Ohio counties.”
- The maximum amount of funding available to applicants is \$100,000. All applicants must complete and submit a budget form as part of their application packet. All proposed expenditures must directly relate to the service of conducting primary and/or secondary prevention programs within the community. For definitions of what are allowable and unallowable expenditures, please visit the OCTF website (www.jfs.ohio.gov/octf).
- **A complete application packet is defined as the following:**
 1. **Completed Application (Attachment A)**
 2. **Completed Program Participation spreadsheet (Attachment B)**
 3. **Completed Budget Form (Attachment C)**

Application Packet Review Process
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- Application packets will undergo an initial review by OCTF staff to ensure they are complete. Any applicant who fails to submit a completed application packet to the Trust Fund will not receive consideration by the OCTF Board.
- The OCTF staff will then review and score each application. Please note that application consideration and/or **approval is subject to the availability of funds.**

- During the review period, OCTF staff may contact applicants for clarification of items in their application packet or to provide additional information and/or answer questions.
- Each proposal will be considered by the OCTF Board. Proposals may only be presented to the Board in person at the request of the Board.
- **The OCTF Board reserves the right to make final decisions on each application and they may apply additional criteria to their review. In addition, the OCTF Board will only consider applications that propose programming that is relevant to the current needs of the Trust Fund.**
- The OCTF will notify the applicant of the OCTF Board's decision concerning their application for funding.
- Applicants who are approved for funding by the OCTF Board will then enter into a grant agreement with the Trust Fund that will detail the specific deliverables and budgets surrounding your approved programming. Approved applicants cannot begin programming until a grant agreement has been signed and a purchase order has been fully approved.