



PARTNERS  
FOR OHIO'S FAMILIES

Every person has value and should be treated in a manner that is respectful and culturally responsive.

## OFFICE OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN

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### Feedback and Subscriptions

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### From OFC Deputy Director Jennifer Justice – 7/1/16

Question: What do OFC and the Cleveland Cavaliers have in common? (Hint: It's not a national trophy.) Answer: We're both "All In...Together!"

Ohio's child welfare system is on the brink of numerous exciting changes, and all of us – state staff, county staff and other partners – will need to work together to make them happen for Ohio's children! To name just a few: We're transitioning to Medicaid managed care for children in foster care, we're extending foster care services to age 21, and we're facing potential major changes to the federal Title IV-E program.

I attended the "Launching the Transition to Managed Care Meeting" on June 24 with many of you. Thanks to PCSAO for hosting this valuable information session for child welfare and managed care representatives. In addition to explaining the basics of managed care and the transition status of targeted populations, the day offered a great opportunity to share insight about the child welfare system and the needs of our children and families.

The clock is ticking for extending foster care services to young adults up to age 21. Substitute House Bill 50 becomes effective Sept. 11, just 90 days after Gov. Kasich's June 13 signature. OFC then has 15 months to develop and implement a

framework. We'll be reaching out to public and private stakeholders for their input.

Keep your eye on the federal **Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016**, introduced on June 13. The bill would allow Title IV-E dollars to pay for up to 12 months of evidence-based services to help keep children out of foster care and to reduce group home placements.

Yesterday was the second meeting of the Adult Protective Services Advisory Council, chaired by Leslie McGee, manager of OFC's Adult Protective Services (APS) Section. The council finalized its operational charter and closely examined Ohio's APS laws and rules. I appreciate them taking the time to do this important work. It will be exciting to see where they focus in the future.

Thanks to all who wore purple on June 15 to raise awareness about elder abuse. Check out the photo of some of our staff on page 6!

Don't forget that this year's Fostering Pathways to Success Conference will be held July 28 in Columbus. As in years past, information will be provided for both transitioning and emancipated foster youth and their adult supporters. If you haven't already arranged for youth in your area to attend, please do so! To learn more, [click here](#).

## Meet the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Staff

The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund (OCTF) is a small but mighty team with a big mission: to eliminate child abuse. In case you haven’t had a chance to meet them in person, here is an introduction.



**Kristen Rost**, executive director, works with the OCTF’s board of directors and oversees its operations, including strategic initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect, human trafficking and infant mortality. She builds partnerships with statewide and county entities that provide services to families and communities so they can build on existing strengths and effectively intervene long before child abuse or neglect occur. Under her direction, in SFY 2016 the OCTF awarded more than \$4.4 million to more than 200 organizations and agencies throughout Ohio for state and local prevention activities.

When not working to strengthen Ohio families, Kristen spends her free time with her husband and two young children, Will and Kate.



**Nicole Sillaman**, program manager, is OCTF’s primary grant manager for human trafficking prevention programs. She also manages the OCTF’s Strengthening Families Ohio Parent Café Coordinator Training, which teaches participants how to provide this family-strengthening training in their areas. She maintains the OCTF’s social media accounts and has contributed to its growing base of loyal followers.

Nicole spends her free time with her husband, JB, and their two pugs, Jet and Lola.



**David Monder**, program manager, works closely with the ODJFS Office of Fiscal and Monitoring Services to manage the OCTF’s finances and to prepare financial reports and other information for the OCTF Board. He also serves as the lead manager for the OCTF’s partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America.

When not working, David enjoys spending time with his wife, Kim, and son, Nathan. He is also an avid student of military history.

### Want to help prevent human trafficking in your community?

Follow the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund on Facebook at [facebook.com/OhioChildrensTrustFund](https://www.facebook.com/OhioChildrensTrustFund) or visit the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force website at [humantrafficking.ohio.gov/](http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/).

If you suspect human trafficking, call (888) 3737-888.

## Human Trafficking Prevention Grants

In January, the OCTF and the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force awarded \$90,000 in grant funding for nine human trafficking prevention programs reaching 25 Ohio counties. The participating organizations are training adults who have contact with at-risk youth, are educating at-risk youth themselves, and are raising awareness of human trafficking in their communities.

“These programs are conducting essential prevention work, and their impact cannot be overstated,” said OCTF Executive Director Kristen Rost. “Ohio is committed to providing timely, high-quality and comprehensive human trafficking prevention services, and these organizations are vital partners.”

The following organizations received funding:

- A Caring Place Child Advocacy Center (CAC) – Harrison and Jefferson Counties
- Asian American Community Services – Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton and Summit Counties
- Children’s Lantern – Defiance,

Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putnam and Williams Counties

- Delaware County Against Human Trafficking Coalition – Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services – Franklin County
- First Step Family Violence Intervention Services, Inc. – Coshocton County
- Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office – RANGE Task Force – Montgomery County
- Shelby High School, Zoetic Zinnias Student Organization – Richland County
- Sisters in Shelter – Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties

So far, the programs have reached more than 101,000 people, and 18 potential victims have been referred for follow-up services. Page 3 shows the results for each to date, along with examples of some of the unique approaches grantees are taking to their prevention efforts.

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**Asian American Community Services**

Asian American Community Services (AACS) – a nonprofit serving Central Ohio – is working with partner organizations in Cleveland, Akron and Cincinnati to train youth ambassadors to lead prevention and awareness efforts. With guidance from adult staff, the ambassadors develop creative prevention strategies and conduct outreach at college campuses, schools, local community events and festivals, and other places at-risk youth might gather.

“AACS provided my peers and I with the opportunity to help educate our community about a problem that can hit very close to home,” a Columbus youth ambassador commented. “It has been staggering to learn about how prevalent human trafficking is in our city, suburbs and neighborhoods. The role of youth ambassadors to educate on human trafficking was taken very seriously and has allowed us to open our eyes, and the eyes around us, to the signs that victims who are trafficked exhibit.”

Asian Services in Action and the Asian Community Alliance are partnering with AACS in this effort. To learn more, visit [aacsohio.org](http://aacsohio.org).

**Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services**

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS) – a Central Ohio nonprofit serving immigrants and refugees from Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East – is using the grant to educate more than 300 youth in its after-school program about the dangers of human trafficking.

Trained staff conduct age-appropriate workshops on such things as recruitment tactics, factors that might make them vulnerable, who to contact if they or someone they know experiences human trafficking, and available resources. After the workshops, the youth create posters to demonstrate what they learned. The poster at right was selected to be displayed on the north side of Columbus, which is home to the largest Bhutanese-Nepali community in the United States.



To reach immigrants and refugees that it doesn't directly serve, ETSS also aired a public service announcement on the Africa TV Network.

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Organization	Amount of Funding Awarded	# of Adults Trained	# of Youth Trained	# who received Outreach / Awareness	# of Potential Victims Referred for Services
A Caring Place CAC	\$8,380	44	32	3,000	0
Asian American Community Services	\$15,000	0	11	0	0
Children's Lantern	\$5,200	21	1	1,030	0
Delaware County Against Human Trafficking Coalition	\$3,346	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services	\$13,516	37	0	0	6
First Step Family Violence Intervention Services, Inc.	\$8,827	0	0	0	0
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	\$15,000	61	4	0	7
Shelby City Board of Education	\$5,731	0	30	0	0
Sisters in Shelter	\$15,000	77	350	96,698	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>100,728</b>	<b>18</b>

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## Shelby High School's Zoetic Zinnias Organization

Shelby High School's Zoetic Zinnias (ZoZis) organization is a group of passionate high schoolers and staff who volunteer their time and energy to growing and selling flowers to raise money for organizations that fight human trafficking. As a result of the grant, ZoZis has taken its outreach efforts to students in neighboring high schools, as well. During Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in April, it cohosted a community-wide event called "Change is Blooming," to educate community members and other local high school students about the dangers of human trafficking.

"The event was so different than anything we have done before," one group member commented. "We got to focus on awareness and educating people. We had a great turnout, and the event made a huge impact."

## Free Legal Services for At-Risk Families

Thanks to the generous support of the OCTF, the Family and Youth Law Center (FYLaw) at Capital University Law School is providing free legal representation, counseling, information, referrals and resources to eligible parents and families in nine Ohio counties.

As a result of a \$93,113 grant from the OCTF, FYLaw is serving families at risk of child abuse and neglect in the following Ohio counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow and Pickaway. It hopes to expand the project to other counties in the future.

"We're excited to partner with Capital University Law School in support of this program, which aligns perfectly with the mission of the Trust Fund," said OCTF Executive Director Kristen



ZoZis also has created several YouTube videos to help raise awareness. For more information about its outreach efforts, visit [facebook.com/ZoeticZinnias](https://www.facebook.com/ZoeticZinnias).

Rost. "This program will provide holistic legal services for families, reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, and improve family safety and stability."

Services are designed to help parents with such issues as homelessness and unemployment while strengthening their protective factors. This can include help obtaining items such as birth certificates, Social Security cards and driver's licenses and help creating legal documents like wills, powers of attorney and caretaker authorization affidavits. Law students also can discuss custody options with families and help them pursue criminal record sealing and expungement, understand contracts and leases, resolve landlord-tenant issues, apply for public benefits, and manage credit issues.

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## OCTF Facts

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund:

- Was established by statute in 1984.
- Is governed by a board of 15 members (see the **April 2015 First Friday** for a board description).
- Is housed within ODJFS, and the agency serves as its administrative agent.
- Is Ohio's only public funding source dedicated to the primary and secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Supports programs that build on existing strengths within families and communities to effectively intervene before child abuse or neglect occur.
- Invested more than \$4.4 million in state and local prevention programs and activities in the last state fiscal year.
- Serves as the Ohio Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.
- Has moved to a locally driven regional model to streamline operations, reduce administrative expenses and eliminate duplicative services.
- Knows its social media! Visit [jfs.ohio.gov/octf/](http://jfs.ohio.gov/octf/), "like" the Trust Fund on Facebook at [facebook.com/ohiochildrenstrustfund](https://www.facebook.com/ohiochildrenstrustfund), and follow @OhioCTF on Twitter and Instagram.



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“We are very pleased to be able to offer our clinical services to at-risk families,” said Fawn Gadel, clinical director of FYLaw’s Family and Youth Advocacy Center. “We believe that with our assistance parents will be better equipped to overcome challenges that impact family well-being.”

Added Rachel Janutis, Capital University Law School’s interim dean: “This grant will help FYLaw to continue to fulfill its mission to strengthen and support families. It will also provide expanded opportunities for students to gain real-world experience and develop the skills they need to be successful lawyers and leaders upon graduation. This grant is evidence of FYLaw’s growing reputation as



*FYLaw student attorneys Jessica Mason and Julie Beroes are hard at work on clinic cases.*

a leader in child welfare law and family services. Through this grant, FYLaw and Capital University will continue to transform the lives

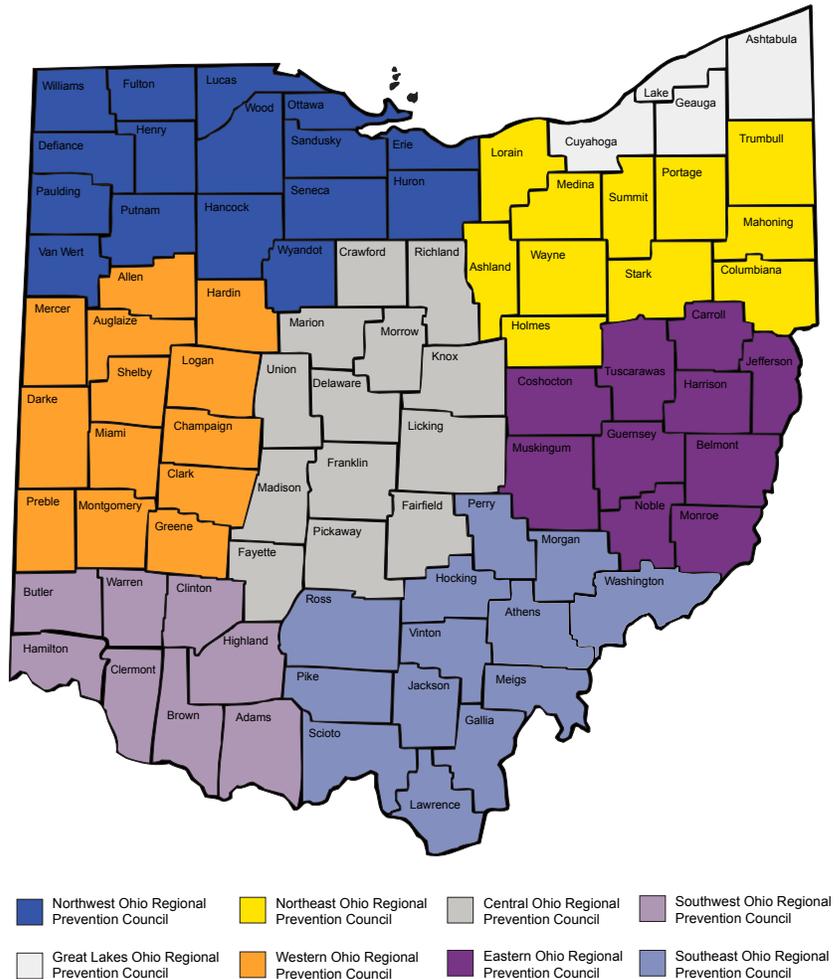
of children and families in Central Ohio.” For more information, please visit [fyacfamily.org/](http://fyacfamily.org/).

### OCTF Regional Partnerships Established

The OCTF is excited to announce that regional child abuse and neglect prevention partnerships have been established throughout the state, and many passionate advocates are working together to ensure that Ohio’s families get the services they need.

Since last year, local prevention efforts have been led by eight regional prevention councils. Each council is led by a regional prevention coordinator or coordinating entity and includes up to two prevention specialists from each county. Together, the councils work with local providers to serve families.

The new model is designed to streamline operations, reduce administrative expenses and eliminate duplicative services. The following universities are involved: The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Wright State University, University of Toledo, Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University. To learn more, visit [jfs.ohio.gov/octf/regional-prevention-councils.stm](http://jfs.ohio.gov/octf/regional-prevention-councils.stm).



## Wear Purple Day



Many thanks to all who wore purple on June 15 in support of Elder Abuse Awareness Day, including these OFC staff, who posed in front of our office mural.

### June 2016 Global Email

The following email was sent in June from Jennifer Justice to PCSA directors and/or private agency directors:

6/6/2016—Notice of Issuance of a Temporary Certificate

### Rule Review Update

No new rules were posted at [ohiorulereview.org](http://ohiorulereview.org) in June 2016. Please continue to visit the site periodically for new postings. We welcome your input and hope you use this opportunity to share your experiences and suggestions. The website received 233 hits during June 2016.

### Principle of the Month

Every person has value and should be treated in a manner that is respectful and culturally responsive.

## Differential Response Update

Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the **results** of a six-state study to see whether children in counties with high rates of Alternative Response use are more or less likely to be the subject of future child welfare reports and/or the victims of future substantiated reports of abuse or neglect. The results were consistent with Ohio's **initial** and **five-year** evaluations. Here were some highlights:

- Overall, higher rates of Alternative Response were associated with fewer subsequent child welfare reports and fewer future substantiated reports of abuse or neglect.
- In three of the six states, higher rates of Alternative Response were associated with fewer subsequent reports. In the other three states, there was no association between

Alternative Response use and subsequent reports.

- In five of the six states, higher rates of Alternative Response were associated with fewer future substantiated reports of abuse or neglect. In the remaining state, there was no association between Alternative Response use and future substantiated reports.

All six states in the study had been using Alternative Response for more than 10 years. Ohio fully implemented its Differential Response system statewide in **June 2014**.

Differential Response gives agencies two options for responding to accepted reports of child abuse and neglect: a Traditional Response and an Alternative Response. A Traditional Response is required when children have been seriously at risk. For many other less serious reports, an Alternative Response may be more appropriate. It often resolves issues faster, more easily and with less disruption to children's lives. With both Traditional and Alternative Response, the primary goal is child safety.