

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund

A Brief History

Late 1970's

Ray Helfer, M.D. (Michigan State University) believed that children deserved the same level of priority as we committed to our roadways. When the United States Congress established a trust fund to support repair of the national highway system, Dr. Helfer began advocating for a children's trust fund in every state to support child abuse and neglect prevention.

1980

The first Children's Trust Fund was established in Kansas.

1984

In response to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which provided incentive challenge grants to the states, the remaining 49 states and the District of Columbia passed legislation to establish their own children's trust funds. The Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 319 (Ohio Revised Code Section 3109.13 – 18) to create the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. The OCTF operated under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Development and the Office of Criminal Justice Services, and there was no dedicated staff to the program.

1987

Amended Substitute House Bill 171 moved the OCTF under the administrative oversight of the Ohio Department of Human Services. For the first time, there was available revenue to permit the first grants to be distributed to prevention programs in the counties.

1989

A full-time Executive Director, Fiscal Specialist and Secretary were hired.

199?

Local Prevention Advisory Boards were functional in all 88 counties.

1995

Three federal grants were combined into the Community-Based Family Resource & Support (CBFRS) grant which was administered by the OCTF Board. The OCTF granted money to 270 service providers.

1999

House Bill 283 passed the General Assembly and allowed County Commissioners to appoint the Family and Children First Council to fulfill the functions of the Local Prevention Advisory Board. Additionally, there is a \$1 increase in all fees for the OCTF.

2001

Implementation of House Bill 283 changes the funding model and the OCTF can no longer directly administer grants to service providers. Monies will be allocated to the OCTF County Agency (either the Local Prevention Advisory Board or the Family and Children First Council) for county planning purposes.

2003

With increased revenues, the OCTF Board raised the minimum allocation to small counties from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Based on the formula specified in Ohio law, allocations increased to all counties by 52%. County allocations for State Fiscal Year 2004 total \$3.8 million.