

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODJFS Announces Grant to Agencies for Caseworker Recruitment and Retention

State makes investment as part of Children Services Transformation Advisory Council recommendation

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced today a \$15 million grant program to help public children services agencies recruit and retain frontline caseworkers and supervisors. Agencies can apply for the funding, which was appropriated as part of the state fiscal year (SFY) 2022 budget.

“Ohio has a children services workforce dedicated to creating positive outcomes for children and their families,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “These grants will help increase the pipeline of professionals into Ohio’s children services system and help counties focus on the long-term stability of their workforce.”

In the coming days, ODJFS will be reaching out to all counties to provide more details on the program and application process. Agencies can use the funding for any of the following:

- Sign-on and/or retention bonus programs.
- Student loan and/or tuition payments.
- Expenses related to local media campaigns intended to support or recruit workforce.
- Activities targeting agency culture and climate, including programs addressing mental, physical, and emotional health issues.
- The purchase of virtual reality (VR) headsets to provide an immersive training experience, putting the user in the shoes of a children services caseworker.
- Caseworker supervisor coaching or training intended to build supportive supervision skills.
- Referral bonuses for employees who refer successful recruits, and when the recruits maintain employment past six and 12 months.
- Transcription services to increase efficiency for case documentation.
- Solutions to recruit and retain children services caseworkers.

“We’ve made this funding flexible so that agencies can help their caseworkers and supervisors in a number of ways,” said ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder. “We’ll be able to look at the reporting and see which strategies were most successful bringing in new children services workers and keeping the ones we have.”





**Department of
Job and Family Services**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Matt Damschroder, Director

A small, light-colored map of the state of Ohio is positioned behind the "News Release" text.

**News
Release**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

