



Ohio Children's Trust Fund

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) was statutorily created in 1984 and serves as Ohio's sole public funding source dedicated to the primary and secondary prevention of child abuse and child neglect. The OCTF is a quasi-governmental entity, governed by a 15-member board, representing a broad public private partnership. The board is comprised of eight members who represent the citizens of Ohio and are appointed by the governor, four legislative appointees, and three agency directors (from the Ohio Departments of Health, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services).

The Trust Fund is governed by Ohio Revised Code sections 3109.13 through 3109.179. In accordance with Ohio law, OCTF revenue is allocated in support of primary and/or secondary prevention strategies to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The OCTF also serves as Ohio's Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA). Through this partnership, the OCTF represents PCAA and supports its mission, "to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children."

To ensure child abuse and neglect prevention services are addressing local service needs, in 2015 the Ohio legislature established eight regional child abuse and child neglect prevention councils. Each regional prevention council consists of up to two county prevention specialists appointed by each county's board of county commissioners. The OCTF board may also appoint prevention specialists to the council. Each council is responsible for reviewing and assessing local and regional data to determine the needs within the region.

Protective Factors

The OCTF supports prevention programs that recognize and build on existing strengths within families and communities to effectively intervene long before child abuse or neglect occur. The foundation of the OCTF's approach with families is centered around five protective factors. Research shows that when parents possess the protective factors, the risk for abuse and neglect diminishes, and optimal outcomes for children, youth and families are promoted.

- Knowledge of parenting and child development.
- Parental resilience.
- Social connections.
- Concrete supports in times of need.
- Social and emotional competence of children.

Responsibilities

The OCTF is responsible for:

- Administering grants to other agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide prevention programs in their communities, focusing on evidence-based and evidence-informed programs that have demonstrated their effectiveness.
- Providing resources and education to parents and caregivers to help them manage stress, find support and services, and build stronger foundations for their families.
- Delivering training and education to professionals who provide services to families.
- Educating the public about child abuse and neglect prevention through awareness campaigns and social media.

Service Delivery Approaches

OCTF has prioritized five service delivery approaches: (1) Regional Prevention Councils, (2) Family Success Network, (3) Grants of Statewide Significance, (4) Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Training Services, and (5) the Early Childhood Safety Initiative.

Types of services provided include, but are not limited to, various parent education programs, such as Triple P Positive Parenting Program, Nurturing Parenting Program, Parenting Wisely, and Parent Cafes. Child-serving programs include mentoring services such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and Cross - Age Mentoring Program, and other professional development trainings as needed.