May 24, 2019

Jerry Milner, Acting Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Commissioner Milner:

Attached please find Ohio’s application for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Children’s Justice Act Grant funds. The activities described will implement recommendations of the Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency. This is the State task force maintained under the Children’s Justice Act eligibility requirements. There is close collaboration among my staff to ensure that Children’s Justice Act program activities are consistent with the strategies and goals of Ohio’s Child and Family Services Plan and help support and improve Ohio’s performance under the Child and Family Services Review.

Please contact Ohio’s acting Children’s Justice Act Coordinator, Tequilla Washington, by telephoning 614-752-5206 or e-mailing Tequilla.Washington@JFS.ohio.gov if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kimberly L. Hall
Director

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
jfs.ohio.gov

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OHIO
FFY 2019 - 2021

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT GRANT

APPLICANT AGENCY: 
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
30 East Broad Street, 32nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

EIN: 
31-6402047

CONTACT PERSON: 
Tequilla Washington
Project Manager
Office for Children and Families
P.O. Box 183204
Columbus, Ohio 43215

E-MAIL: 
Tequilla.Washington@jfs.ohio.gov

FAX: 
(614) 466-0164

TELEPHONE: 
(614)752-5206
## Eligibility Requirements: Documentation & Information Related to How the Task Force Works Together

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-12</td>
<td>Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Linkage to Anti Trafficking Efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Linkage to Children’s Bureau Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Work Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Communication of Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Prior Year Projects/Activities & Performance Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-21</td>
<td>Investigative, Administrative &amp; Judicial Handling of Child Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>Training &amp; Support of First Responders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary Training &amp; Action Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>Experimental, Model and Demonstration Programs for Testing Innovative Approaches &amp; Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-26</td>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30</td>
<td>Programming to Address Substance Use Disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-36</td>
<td>Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Guardian ad Litem Rule &amp; Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Child in Need of Protective Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-32</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice in Child Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32-33</td>
<td>CFSR/Quality Hearing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34-36</td>
<td>CAND Website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Prior Year Budget Expenditure Line Item

## Proposed Activities/Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37-39</td>
<td>Improving Team Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39-40</td>
<td>Child in Need of Protective Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-41</td>
<td>Training &amp; Support for First Responders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-42</td>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42-43</td>
<td>Child Welfare, Courts &amp; SUD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Task Force Research, Communication &amp; Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Children’s Justice Act Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Budget Recap

Ohio Children’s Justice Act 2019-2021
Eligibility Requirements

Documentation

The following documents immediately follow this page:
1. Letter of Assurance
2. Certification Regarding Lobbying
3. Task Force Roster Listing Membership and Designation
May 28, 2019

Jerry Milner, Acting Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street SW, 3rd Floor, Room 3046  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Commissioner Milner:

This letter is to certify that Ohio has received the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 child abuse and neglect Basic State Grant and continues to comply with the requirements stipulated in Section 106(b) for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Ohio has maintained a state multidisciplinary task force on children’s justice and continues to progress in adopting recommendations of the task force or a comparable alternative to such recommendations.

Ohio will make such reports to the Secretary as may reasonably be required, including an annual report on the manner in which assistance under this program was expended throughout the state, with particular attention focused on the areas described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of Section 107(a) of the Act. Ohio will maintain and provide access to records relating to activities under the Children’s Justice Act.

It is understood that Ohio is required to participate in at least one federally initiated Children’s Justice Act meeting each year, and that Ohio is authorized to use federal Children’s Justice Act funds to cover travel and per diem expenses for two Children’s Justice Act representatives to attend the meeting.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Very respectfully yours,

[Signature]
Mike DeWine  
Governor
CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

__________________________
Signature and Date
Kimberly L. Hall 5/24/19

__________________________
Printed Name
Director

__________________________
Title
Ohio Dept. Job and Family Services

Organization
Ohio’s Children’s Justice Act Task Force
Roster
Ohio’s Children’s Justice Act Task Force is comprised of a core subcommittee and various workgroups. This roster identifies task force membership by discipline and participation.

Law Enforcement
Sargent John Blubaugh &
Sargent, Columbus Police Department

Lieutenant William Laff +
Lieutenant, Columbus Police Department
Lieutenant Laff works within the Columbus Division of Police Special Victims Bureau, charged with investigating sexual assault of children and adults, physical abuse, domestic violence, missing persons and exploited children.

Criminal Court Judge
Honorable Stephen L. McIntosh +
Judge, Franklin County Common Pleas Court.
Judge McIntosh has been a judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas since 2008. Prior to his time on the bench, Judge McIntosh worked as a prosecutor, a criminal and civil defense attorney, and a civil plaintiff attorney.

Civil Court Judge
Magistrate Rebecca Bennett
Magistrate, Scioto County Juvenile & Probate Court

Honorable Anthony Capizzi +
Judge, Montgomery County Juvenile Court
Judge Capizzi was first elected as Montgomery County’s Juvenile Judge in 2004 and he previously served as an Acting Judge for Dayton Municipal Court and worked in private practice for over 25 years. Judge Capizzi is also the immediate past president of National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

Magistrate Michelle L. Edgar + * &
Magistrate, Fairfield County Probate/Juvenile Court
Magistrate Edgar has served as Fairfield County’s Probate and Juvenile Court Magistrate since 2013. Prior to this role, she worked as a private practice attorney.

Magistrate Carla Guenthner &
Magistrate, Hamilton County Juvenile Court

Judge Rosemarie Hall + #
Judge, Stark County Family Court
Judge Hall has served in her role in Stark County Common Pleas Court, Family Court Division since 2011. Judge Hall served as a Magistrate in the court from 2004 to 2011. As a magistrate, Judge Hall developed and presented Working
Together for Kids, a parent education and mediation program for never married parents.

Magistrate Todd Kohlrieser #
Chief Magistrate, Allen County Juvenile/Probate Court

Magistrate Katie Lenski &
Magistrate, Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Honorable Mathew P. Puskarich + ^ &
Judge, Harrison County Probate and Juvenile Court
Judge Puskarich has served as Harrison County Probate and Juvenile Court Judge since 2003. Prior to joining the court, Judge Puskarich was a Harrison County Prosecuting Attorney and a Jefferson County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

Magistrate Brenda Rutledge #
Magistrate, Lucas County Juvenile Court

Magistrate Cynthia Thompson #
Magistrate, Greene County Juvenile Court

Civil Court Administration

Jake Morgan #
Assistant Court Administrator, Stark County Family Court

Nicole Rodriguez + *
Chief Deputy Clerk, Miami County Juvenile Court
Ms. Rodriguez has served as the Miami County Juvenile Court’s Chief Deputy Clerk since 1998.

Doug Schonauer + ^
Court Administrator, Coshocton County Probate and Juvenile Court
Mr. Schonauer has served as the Court Administrator for the Coshocton County Probate and Juvenile Court for over 10 years.

Prosecuting Attorney

Victor H. Perez + &
Attorney, Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services
Mr. Perez is a Child Protection Attorney for Seneca County Department of Job & Family Services. He was named Ohio Public Children’s Services Attorney of the Year in 2010. Mr. Perez serves on the Ohio State Bar Association Board of Governors.

Victor V. Vigluicci + &
Prosecutor, Portage County
Prosecutor Vigluicci has been in his role as Portage County Prosecutor since 1994. He served as the Acting Judge and Referee for Portage County Municipal Court from 1980-1994, and worked in private practice from 1977-1994. Prosecutor Vigluicci also serves as President of the Board of Trustees for the Portage County Children’s Advocacy Center.
Defense/Parents Attorney

Alexandria Ruden + &
Attorney at Law, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Ms. Ruden as a Senior Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Prior to this role she worked as an attorney at the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland and served as a Referee in the Cleveland Heights, Ohio Municipal Court.

Lauren R. Weller +
Staff Attorney, Southeastern Ohio Legal Services
Ms. Weller is a senior staff attorney in the Portsmouth office of SEOLS. She joined SEOLS in 2005 and practices in the areas of housing, consumer, and family law. She is the chair of SEOLS's Family Law team and co-chair of the Ohio Family Law Taskforce. Lauren received the SEOLS Leadership Award in 2011 for her work on the Family Law team and her work with the Salvation Army Portsmouth Corps.

Child Advocate/Attorney for Children

Debra Rothstein + &
Senior Attorney, Manager, Butler County Guardian ad Litem Program, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio
Ms. Rothstein serves as senior attorney and manager of the Guardian ad Litem Project at the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio. In addition to her focus on Guardian ad Litem work, Ms. Rothstein also has experience practicing in the areas of family law, immigration law, and children & education law.

Court Appointed Special Advocate

Carol Fox #
CASA Director, Wood County Juvenile Court

Alan Futo + &
Lead Child Advocate, Summit County, Ohio CASA/GAL Association
Mr. Futo serves in the role Lead Child Advocate at the Summit County, Ohio CASA/GAL Association.

Doug Stephens &
Executive Director, CASA Ohio

Health Professional

Megan McGraw Letson, M.D. +
Medical Director, Center for Safety and Healing, Nationwide Children's Hospital
Dr. Letson is the Program Director for the Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She also is an attending physician for The Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Letson is active in the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics'
Section on Child Abuse and Neglect and is a member of the Ambulatory Pediatric Association.

**Mental Health Professional**

**Heidi A. Malott**, LISW + * &
Clinical Manager, Mayerson Center, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
Ms. Malott is the Clinical Program Manager, Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children’s is a premier program that has helped set the national standard for enhancing and strengthening evaluations of child abuse.

**Dustin McKee** +
Director of Policy, National Alliance on Mental Health
Mr. McKee has worked in his role to lead and coordinate the public policy and legislative initiatives of NAMI Ohio as the Director of Policy since 2016. Prior to this position, Mr. McKee worked at a Policy and Advocacy Associate at Voices for Ohio’s Children and at the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities.

**Child Protective Service Agencies**

**Alicia Allen** *
Chief, Bureau of Fiscal Operations, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

**Kristen Fox Berk** #
Deputy Director, Lorain County Children Services

**Carla Carpenter** + &
Deputy Director, Office of Families and Children at Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Ms. Carpenter Serves as the Child Welfare Director for the state of Ohio overseeing child abuse prevention, protective services, foster care, and adoption services. Additionally, she provides oversight for adult protective services. Her past experience includes her role as the Bureau Chief at the Office of Families and Children, where she managed continuous quality improvement and technical assistance activities with Ohio’s county public children services agencies; data analysis projects; collaboration across state systems to improve services and outcomes for the child welfare population; and implementation of new child welfare initiatives within the state.

**Barbara Cline** #
Quality Assurance Supervisor, Athens County Children Services

**Timothy Dick** #
Assistant Director, Clermont County Job and Family Services

**Christine Dobrovich** * # &
Chief, Bureau of Child/Adult Protective Services, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Jeremy Harrigan *
SACWIS team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Deanna Herold *
Policy Developer, Child Protective Services, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Catherine Hill *
Executive Director, Athens County Children Services
Ms. Hill was appointed executive director of Athens County Children Services Board in 2012; prior to that she was the director at Hocking County Children Services. Ms. Hill is a past President and current member of the PCSAO Board of Trustees.

Melissa Palmer *
Technical Assistance Specialist, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Amy Reinhart * #
Technical Assistance Specialist, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Jacqui Ringer *
Director, Marion County Children Services

Timothy Schaffner + &
Executive Director, Trumbull County Children Services
Mr. Schaffner was named the executive director of Trumbull County Children Services (TCCS) in November 2012. As a leader in behavioral health and residential care for children, he has provided consultation and training for many educational, residential and child welfare facilities and brings a wealth of management and child mental health treatment experience to his role as executive director. Prior to joining TCCS, he was the executive director of Valley Counseling Services, corporate director/corporate clinical executive for the Center for Behavioral Medicine at Forum Health and director of youth services at Tod Children’s Hospital in Youngstown.

Susan Shafer * #
Technical Assistance Specialist, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Rick Tvaroch #
Trumbull County Children Services

Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities

Brittany Miracle +
Program Administrator, Ohio Department of Education
Ms. Miracle serves as a program administrator for the Office of Integrated Student Supports. She oversees programs that address the needs of the whole child, including programs for foster care students, homeless students, adjudicated youth, immigrants and English learners. Her office coordinates and supports resources for positive and safe schools, such as school-based health centers, programs related to safety, anti-bullying, mental and behavioral health, positive behavioral
intervention supports (PBIS) and trauma-informed care.

Parent Representative

**Carlee Perdue +**
Parent Representative, Access Ohio
Ms. Perdue is Case Manager/Care Coordinator at Access Ohio, a leading behavioral health treatment provider that specializes in the treatment of adults, adolescents, and children affected by mental illness and/or addiction.

Adult Former Victim of Maltreatment

**Terry Green + &**
Executive Director, Think Make Live
Mr. Green's experience has a former foster and justice-involved youth led him to becoming the Founder and CEO of Think Make Live social enterprise, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering community engagement. Mr. Green is a national social justice consultant providing a hallmark experience in supporting opportunities for justice-involved young adults, innovative civic engagement practices and workforce development strategies.

Individuals experienced in working with homeless children and youth

**Bonita Campbell, MS, LSW +**
Director, Lighthouse Youth Services
Ms. Campbell provides organizational leadership for Youth Housing Opportunities. She is responsible for fiscal management, strategic planning, and quality assurance. Additionally, she represents the agency locally, statewide, and nationally for transition age youth and housing-related initiatives.

Other

**Courtney Alcott **
Revenue Enhancement Manager, Ohio Department of Youth Services

**Ryan Gies **
Director, Ohio Department of Youth Services

**Brent Laman **
Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Hamilton County Juvenile Court

**Linda Maxwell +**
Therapist, White Crane Counseling & Consultation, LLC
Ms. Maxwell is an experienced therapist with a demonstrated history of working in the mental health care industry. She is skilled in nonprofit organizations, relationship counseling, crisis intervention, family therapy, and case management.

**Julie Norberg **
Director of Community Control, Allen County Juvenile Court
Melody Popp *
Title IV-E/ SACWIS Specialist,
Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Jodi Slagle *
Bureau Chief of Community Facilities, Ohio Department of Youth Services

Kathy Stocker *
Title IV-E Specialist, Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Amy Stone ^
Disciplinary Counsel, Supreme Court of Ohio

Erika McWhorter *
Probation Officer, Montgomery County Juvenile Court
Description of how the Task Force works together: structure, use of a work plan, meeting frequency, meeting minutes.

Information Related to How the Task Force Works Together

1. Structure
   a. Organization
      
      Ohio’s multidisciplinary task force that complies with the Children’s Justice Act (CJA) requirements set forth in Section 107 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is established as a subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO): the Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND). CAND functions under a standing Advisory Committee on Children and Families appointed by Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor. This report uses the terms CAND and Task Force interchangeably to describe Ohio’s multidisciplinary CJA task force.

2019 Table of Organization

The Advisory Committee on Children & Families

Co-Chairs

Hon. Denise Herron McCollery
Henry County Family Court

Hon. Beth Gill
Franklin County Domestic Relations Juvenile Court

The Subcommittee on Adult Guardianship

Chair

Hon. Dovila Park
Stark County Probate Court

The Subcommittee on Family Law Reform Implementation

Co-Chair

Hon. Matt C. Shadle
Allen County

Domestic Relations Court

Suzann Eppich
Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court

The Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice

Chair

Hon. Beth Gill
Pike County Domestic Relations Juvenile Court

The Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency

De-Chair

Hon. Anthony Capizzi
Montgomery County Juvenile Court

Cara Carpenter, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

b. Membership

The Task Force is comprised of a core subcommittee and various topic-specific workgroups. These workgroups are comprised of both core subcommittee members.
and additional members with topic-specific expertise and knowledge. As described in previous reports, this work functionality has significantly enhanced the Task Force’s professional participation and diversity in membership while meeting the letter and intent of the federal regulation. Representation that complies with federal multidisciplinary requirements is maintained at all times.

During the timeframe discussed in this report (May 2018-May 2019), the Task Force went through a period of great transition that is worth noting. Primarily, Task Force management positions, ODJFS’ CJA coordinator and SCO’s Manager of the Children and Families Section were both replaced during the last year due to retirement and promotion, respectively. In addition, Pam Meermans, the longstanding chair of the Task Force, retired, and her last CAND meeting was in May 2018. During the process of identifying new co-chairs, Veronica Burroughs, Court Improvement Program Analyst at the Supreme Court of Ohio, served as interim chair. At the January 2019 subcommittee meeting, Carla Carpenter, ODJFS Deputy Director in the Office of Families and Children and Judge Anthony Capizzi were installed as CAND co-chairs. Additional Task Force members retired or completed Task Force service during the past year, which provided the opportunity to involve new multidisciplinary members.

Because the Task Force is established as a subcommittee under the Supreme Court of Ohio’s standing Advisory Committee on Children and Families, the Task Force may additionally focus on topics and recommendations that extend beyond CJA-funded initiatives. These activities will not be discussed within this report.

c. Staffing
The Family and Youth Law Center (FYLaw) at Capital University Law School (Columbus) provides research and support services to the Task Force and workgroups. The Task Force is jointly staffed by ODJFS’ CJA coordinator and SCO’s Manager of the Children and Families Section, the organizational area responsible for administration of the Court Improvement Program (CIP).

d. Frequency of Meeting
In 2018, the Task Force agreed to change the meeting frequency from quarterly to three times per year to provide more time for workgroup meetings. Workgroup meetings are scheduled based on need and the intensity of the current focus and activities. Workgroups typically meet more frequently on an “as scheduled” basis. Task Force meetings are in person, with one telephonic meeting per year permitted. Workgroups meet both in-person and by phone/other electronic medium.

2. Linkage to Anti-Trafficking Efforts
The work of the Task Force’s Courts’ Response to Human Trafficking Workgroup was described in Ohio’s 2017-2019 report; it completed its charge in summer 2017. A member of the Task Force serves as liaison with Ohio’s first responder network for minor
victims of human trafficking, the Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers, and continues to provide regular status updates to ensure continuous alignment of activities.

3. Linkage to the Child’s Bureau Processes- CFSR, CFSP, ASPR, PIP, CIP
Ohio places special effort on coordinating the activities of its various federal and state initiatives to ensure that efforts align as pieces of a systemic whole. This is achieved through the institutionalization of communication among programs and by ensuring joint participation in various program planning and work groups. ODJFS Deputy Director Carla Carpenter is a co-chair of the Task Force and a member of the Advisory Committee on Children and Families. The CJA taskforce also serves as the Court Improvement Taskforce (CIP). Ohio’s CJA Coordinator is a senior manager in Ohio’s state-level child welfare office, ODJFS’ Office of Families and Children. The CJA and CIP Coordinator and Manager of Supreme Court of Ohio’s (SCO) Children and Families Section communicate on an ongoing basis to ensure coordination of efforts. Additionally, the CJA Coordinator attends a monthly SCO-sponsored Family Law Team meeting. This meeting draws from the various organizational areas of SCO that touch upon the families and children who appear before Ohio’s courts. This includes the Ohio Judicial College, Caseflow Management, Dispute Resolution, Domestic Violence, Specialized Dockets, and Families and Children areas, as well as other areas upon request. At the time of this writing, Ohio has completed the Round 3 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The first version of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was submitted in June 2018 and subsequently not approved. The Supreme Court of Ohio’s (SCO) Manager of the Children and Families Section and the Court Improvement Program (CIP) participated in both the internal and external PIP planning process to revise the PIP. The revised PIP was submitted on April 29, 2019.
As in prior years, Ohio’s 2019 Annual Progress and Services Report and Child and Family Services Plan will include updates and plans for several joint SCO and Task Force activities.

4. Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Improvement work
As previously discussed in the Prior Year Projects/Activities and Performance Report section of this report, CIP and CJA established the CFSP/Quality Hearing Workgroup as a direct result of the feedback received from the CFSP and root cause analysis process. The goal of this project is to assess the quality of dependency court practice including representation and to make recommendations for improvement. In addition, CIP and CJA are working together to review and make recommendations regarding the provisions of Family First Prevention Services Act that address legal representation.

5. Linkage to Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) convened the Ohio FFPSA Leadership Advisory Committee to make recommendations for the successful planning and implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in Ohio. The Leadership Advisory Committee is divided into four subcommittees; Prevention, Kinship/Adoption Navigator, Family-Based Care, and Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRSTP). Each subcommittee is further divided into workgroups to assist in the
development of specific recommendations about FFPSA implementation. Task Force members will serve as members of the QRTP Court Oversite workgroup. The workgroup is charged with producing:

1. A recommended court oversight plan as it relates to QRTP placements;
2. Recommendations to address court hearings versus administrative review;
3. Recommendations for training courts; and
4. Define permanency hearing and cost

The Ohio FFPSA Leadership Advisory Committee Governance Structure is pictured below:

6. Work Plan
The Task Force’s work is guided by the needs identified in each three-year assessment. Additional items that are consistent with the subcommittee’s purpose may be referred for subcommittee consideration at any time. Based upon the identified needs, the task force developed the following recommendations:

- Provide regional, multidisciplinary training opportunities that encourage stakeholder-driven action planning.
- Support experimental, model and demonstration programming that addresses substance use disorders within the families that come to the attention of the child welfare system.
- Support court-connected strategies that are included within Ohio’s Round Three Program Improvement Plan.
- Re-examine the proposed Child in Need of Protective Services legislative language.
7. Communication of Activities
Ohio’s previous CJA reports have described in detail CAND’s project website, [http://www.ohiochildlaw.org](http://www.ohiochildlaw.org). The website has proven to be an effective tool to communicate the subcommittee work and provide resources.

ODJFS’ Office of Families and Children’s website posts the CJA annual report and program application to ensure that there is full access to this and other strategic planning documents such as the CFSR Final Report, Annual Progress and Services Report, CAPTA State Plan Update, and Child and Family Services Plan. These can be found at [http://ifs.ohio.gov/ocf/Reports-Plans-and-Presentations.stm](http://ifs.ohio.gov/ocf/Reports-Plans-and-Presentations.stm) The SCO’s website provides a link to the ODJFS Office of Families and Children page as well as other reports developed by CAND.

Information regarding these reports and CAND activities are highlighted in ODJFS’ Office of Family and Children Services’ monthly update, First Friday. This publication has a wide distribution across disciplines and geography.

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**Prior Year Projects/Activities and Performance Report**

**Investigative, Administrative and Judicial Handling of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Training and Support of First Responders**

*Task Force Recommendation:* Ensure that child victims of sexual abuse have access to skilled and competent services regardless of geography.

*Note:* Data below supports a need for ongoing support of this activity

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Sexual Abuse Allegations</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>14,401</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>14,618</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>13,306</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>14,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>14,411</td>
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<td>Est. 2019</td>
<td>15,021</td>
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CJA continues to provide training and support to child sexual abuse first responders through Ohio’s consortium of children’s hospitals. The support has four interlocking components:

1. **Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurses**

   CJA continues to support the Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (PSANE) program through a grant to the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children. The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children trains medical providers from medically underserved Ohio communities to conduct skilled, medical evaluations for sexual abuse and severe physical abuse cases. Previous reports have documented the objectives and benefits of Ohio’s long-term investment. These opportunities allow PSANE to retain competence, meet continuing education requirements and maintain quality assurance for experienced Ohio RNs and APNs as Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.

   PSANE training was held February 4-8, 2019. Registered participants represented Bellefontaine, Boardman, Akron, Dayton and Cincinnati, OH. Healthcare Systems included Mary Rutan Hospital Pediatrics, Akron Children’s Hospital, Dayton’s Children Hospital and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. The next PSANE course will take place April 29 – May 2, 2019.

2. **PSANE Instruction**

   On June 4-5, 2019, Ohio’s consortium of children’s hospitals, through its project lead, The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children, hosts a two-day didactic PSANE Instruction and Assessment Course to ensure that participating nurse practitioners have assessment skills and telemedical capability to maintain quality of programming.

   PSANE skills and competence undergo ongoing assessment and quality assurance through peer to peer and participating physician review. A two-day PSANE conference will take place June 27-28, 2019 in Columbus, OH.

3. **Peer Review of Forensic Interviews**

   Statewide Peer Review of Forensic Interviews is held the third Thursday of every month. Approximately 11 sites participate on an ongoing basis; other sites may participate as need arises. The opportunity to join peer review is announced at each Beyond the Silence (Ohio’s forensic interviewing) training. Ongoing peer review and support are critical quality assurance and continuing education components of the forensic interviewing program supported through these funds. Technical support has been provided to Cuyahoga county in developing an internal peer review process. Cuyahoga has been invited to attend statewide peer review. The annual statewide peer review retreat was
held on November 16, 2018. Speakers presented on screening for minor human trafficking victims in a pediatric hospital setting and vicarious trauma.

This annual activity allows participants in statewide peer review to receive continuing education on a specialized topic. It also provides statewide Children’s Advocacy Center and partner agency staff an opportunity to interact in person, which we believe enhances the on-line critiquing experience for participants.

4. Beyond the Silence Forensic Interview Training

Oversight for Ohio’s forensic interviewing instructional and training program, Beyond the Silence, continues to be offered through the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children. Instructional sessions are linked to the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program and held at regional training centers unless an on-site session appears more appropriate or needed. The curriculum meets the National Children’s Alliance standard for forensic interview training. The manual was revised to include the OJJDP Publication, Child Forensic Interviewing: Best Practices. Recommendations from this paper have been added to the curriculum.

Two levels of instruction are offered through the programming: a three-day introductory (BTS 1) course and a three-day advanced (BTS 2) course. Since the trainings are held at the regional training centers, they attract a multi-county audience, with a multidisciplinary audience often representing 6-10 counties. Nine BTS 1 and four BTS 2 sessions have been held or are scheduled to be held before June 30, 2019.

**Multidisciplinary Team Training**

*Task Force Recommendation:* Provide regional, multidisciplinary training opportunities that encourage stakeholder-driven action planning.

*Note: This is an ongoing Task Force activity.*

CJA supported several team training opportunities over the course of the 2018-2019 program year. Each was constructed to alternate instructional time with team review, goal setting and action planning. This gave teams the opportunity to review their own performance measures, identify areas of strength and areas of challenge, and integrate information provided throughout the day into their own strategies.

1. Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Caseflow Management Course

Thirteen county teams participated in the Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Caseflow Management Course hosted by ODJFS and the Supreme Court of Ohio on March 21, 2019.
Columbus. The training gave each team the opportunity to examine their local practices in abuse, neglect and dependency cases that come to the attention of the juvenile court. Each team included a juvenile court judge, PCSA director and other key leaders. Together, they examined local policies and procedures and identified possible improvements. As part of this effort, they considered:

- Ohio’s CFSR results and Program Improvement Plan Strategies.
- County-specific and statewide CFSR and court-related data regarding the children and families who come before the court.
- Services for former foster youth.

Each team committed to a plan for improving and assessing local practices while strengthening case oversight and improving the CSFR measures. They also discussed barriers to the juvenile dependency case process including frequent continuances, engagement of parties in a case, and achieving permanency in 12 months.

The session included a video featuring a team that had returned home from a similar ODJFS/Supreme Court caseflow course more than 10 years ago with the goal of making collaboration and frequent meetings between the court, child welfare agency and system partners status quo. The video can be viewed here:


Evaluations showed that participants found the day to be beneficial and to meet objectives. Participants appreciated the time to sit down with their teams to identify areas needing improvement and potential strategies.

2. Statewide System Improvement Program (SSIP) Regional Training

Five regional SSIP training events were held across the state between December 2018 and March 2019. Invitees included teams of judges, child welfare directors, ADAMH Board directors, treatment providers and other community stakeholders. A total of two hundred and forty-two attendees representing forty-eight counties received training from the national technical assistance provider, Children and Family Futures, regarding the national SSIP initiative focused on expanding the scale and scope of family drug courts (FDC) and infusing effective FDC practices into all dependency cases affected by parental substance use disorders (SUD). In addition, panel presentations from current Ohio SSIP demonstration sites were provided to discuss accomplishments, strategies and lessons learned from infusing FDC best practices into their overall abuse, neglect, and dependency (AND) docket, implementing a universal SUD screening tool, and developing a governance structure. Teams were given an opportunity to work together to complete a system walkthrough to develop an
understanding of the local system as it currently exists, identify opportunities for improvement, and generate ideas for improving organizational processes. Using the information gleaned from the walkthrough, teams began developing an action plan. Each training ended with a charge for teams to return to their counties, finalize the action plan, and submit to the Supreme Court of Ohio for review and consideration for a grant opportunity to receive more in-depth technical assistance for improving outcomes for children and families affected by parental substance use disorders.

Ohio’s SSIP, led by the Supreme Court of Ohio, is a state level collaboration with the Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Department of Medicaid. SSIP is focused on implementing and institutionalizing effective family drug court practices in the larger state-level child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and court systems; ensuring families affected by substance use disorders and involved with the child welfare system have access to a comprehensive array of services; and strengthening cross-system collaboration at the state and local level.

3. Dual Status Training
Four regional Dual Status trainings events were held in April 2019. The training as presented by the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource for Juvenile Justice and included a panel presentation by the Mahoning County Juvenile Court Crossover Team. Multidisciplinary teams of juvenile judges, child welfare directors, and other community partners received a comprehensive overview of the best practices and approaches of a multi-system, coordinated effort to improve both outcomes and system performance for dual-status youth. Teams were also given an opportunity to develop a plan to implement a coordinated and integrated system of care for dual-status youth and their family members. Teams in attendance at the training are eligible to apply to receive technical assistance and consultation scholarships through the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource for Juvenile Justice. These scholarships will allow their community to receive assistance in developing and implementing a coordinated system to enhance the service provision for dual-status youth.

**Experimental, Model, and Demonstration Programs for Testing Innovative Approaches and Techniques**

**Intimate Partner Violence within a Differential Response Framework**

**Safe & Together™ in Ohio**

*Task Force Recommendation:* 
This activity seeks to address the Task Force’s recommendation to promote and support Ohio’s PIP to address CFSR areas needing improvement and continue...
support to maintain Ohio’s system for responding to intimate partner violence.

Note: CFSR results indicate a need for ongoing Task Force Support of this activity.

History
Over the course of Ohio’s Differential Response Pilot in the late 2000s, counties found that a significant number of their alternative response cases included an intimate partner violence component. Several pilot counties requested training and technical assistance to enhance their response in these cases and identified the Safe and Together model created by David Mandel & Associates, LLC (DMA)—now the Safe & Together Institute—as a model of interest. Safe and Together™ is named for one of the model’s key principles: the safety and wellbeing of children exposed to batterer behavior is ideally achieved through keeping them safely together with the non-offending parent/domestic violence survivor.

In response to strong county interest, the State of Ohio, supported by Casey Family Programs, the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy (NCALP)—now the Family and Youth Law Center, DMA, the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network initiated the development of the Ohio Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Collaborative. This multi-faceted initiative was aimed at building IPV response competency within child protective services agencies and fostering enhanced partnerships among child welfare, courts, DV/IPV service providers and other critical stakeholders. Four AR counties—Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, and Ross—participated in the one-year demonstration phase of the initiative in 2010. Following the trainings, the counties were unanimous in their endorsement of the Safe & Together™ model.

Safe & Together™ has gone through multiple expansions in Ohio. After a successful pilot, DMA began certifying local Ohio trainers to meet growing training needs across the state. Since the original four counties, workers from 51 additional county PCSAs have participated in Safe & Together™ trainings bringing the current total to 55, or 62 percent of Ohio counties. So far, thirty-four (62%) of those have brought the trainings back to their counties for booster trainings for new, incoming staff. Approximately 490 PCSA staff members and community partners have participated in Safe & Together™ trainings within the past year. Meanwhile, Ohio has retained eight (72%) of the original 11 certified trainers, a rarity among Safe & Together sites, which gives Ohio the unique benefit of trainers who are not only extensively experienced in child welfare and domestic violence, but who have also been training and practicing the Model for eight years.

Model Overview
The Safe & Together™ CORE training provides a comprehensive introduction to domestic violence using a perpetrator pattern-based, child-centered, and survivor strengths approach. The Model was originally developed for child welfare systems, so it goes beyond DV basics to teach practical skills and tools rooted in child welfare assessment, interviewing, documentation and case-
planning. The behavioral focus of the Model highlights the “how” of the work, offering concrete changes in practice.

One of the key principles of Safe & Together™ is that the default position of child welfare professionals should be to partner with the non-offending parent. Training participants learn to recognize adult survivors as the experts of their situations and to identify the subtle safety behaviors survivors engage in every day to protect themselves and their children. Participants also learn all of the factors that go into a survivor’s determination of whether or not s/he should leave an abusive relationship and if and when that is a safe option.

Safe & Together™ encourages approaches to adult survivors, children and perpetrators from a “beyond services” perspective. This means that “reasonable efforts” to maintain children in the home include communication and coordination with the criminal court and/or adult probation systems working with the perpetrator and setting specific expectations for behavior—usually rooted in the Model’s high expectations for fathers—in the perpetrator’s case plan. It also means that the work of the caseworker does not stop with the referral to services but includes meaningful communication with the service providers including sharing information regarding the perpetrator’s patterns and case plan goals and independent assessment of change.

For adult survivors, the “beyond services” aspect of the Model respects the fact that not all domestic violence survivors are broken, meaning that as victims of abusive behavior they may not have any pathologies of their own. And parallel to the pathway with perpetrators, good work with survivors is not led by the services but is driven by a comprehensive assessment. Finally, when the parents are addressed appropriately and following an individualized assessment of the domestic violence’s impact, a caseworker may find the children do not need services at all.

The Safe & Together Model also improves the ability of child welfare to work with complex cases that have substance abuse and mental health problems, making the connections with domestic violence clearer and helping to ensure a more holistic approach to serving families.

2018-2019 Milestones
The Safe & Together Institute (S&TI) has continued to work with eight Ohio-based trainers through regular communications and technical assistance, quarterly trainer meetings, and pre- and post-training discussions around practice needs. Two certified trainers presented on the Model at the PCSAO Annual Conference on September 21st and the Ohio CASA Celebrate Kids! Conference on September 28th. All trainers complete a recertification process at the end of this fiscal year that will allow them to maintain certification through fiscal year 2020-2021. The process includes online testing, consultations, and performance reviews.

The Ohio IPV Collaborative Coordinator has continued to participate in the state-wide, multi-agency Linking Systems of Care for Ohio’s Youth stakeholder group and Supportive Services
workgroup. In October, she attended the U.S. Safe and Together Conference and participated in TV spot on Daytime Columbus to highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Safe & Together Model.

On the heels of last year’s introduction of a new Safe & Together™ CORE curriculum, this year S&TI introduced a Supervisor training in Ohio that builds on concepts introduced in the CORE training and shows how supervisors can use the Model to coach their workers and assess their practice. The Safe & Together Institute has also launched new online pretest/posttests for CORE trainings (results below). They began this process last year and are working with Michigan State University’s Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence to improve data collection and analysis.

**Safe & Together™ Model CORE Training Results**

In 2018, CORE trainings were hosted in four counties in Ohio to train practitioners and partners on the Safe & Together ™ Model. Attendees were asked to complete a pre-test prior to attending the training, and a post-test after the training using Survey Monkey. A total number of 176 practitioners completed a pre-test prior to attending the training, and the post-test was completed by 172 practitioners. There were 15 practitioners who took both tests. Results from the evaluation and post scores are highlighted below.

### Satisfaction with the Training

- **Objectives of the training were clearly defined:** 90%
- **Content was organized and easy to follow:** 86%
- **Training objectives were met:** 92%
- **Mentoring level was high:** 85%
- **Handouts and materials were relevant and useful:** 89%
- **Meeting rooms and facilities were adequate and comfortable:** 88%

### Specific Practice Skills Learned in the Training

- **Learned practice skills related to adult domestic violence perpetrators:** 94%
- **Learned practice skills related to adult domestic violence survivors:** 96%
- **Learned practice skills related to children domestic violence survivors:** 94%
- **Learned practice skills related to assessment:** 96%
- **Learned practice skills related to case planning:** 96%
- **Learned practice skills related to documentation:** 96%

### Confidence with Skills Learned

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>Describe aspects of the S&amp;TI Model and domestic violence informed policy and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Lead interventions for families where there are domestic abuse issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Describe domestic violence perpetration as a parenting choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>Describe the intersection of domestic abuse and other issues, such as substance abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>Describe the impact of perpetrator’s behavior on child and family functioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Lead practice and data collection to influence service development</td>
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S&T has also hosted multiple trainings in Ohio as part of their ongoing technical assistance, including two webinars—one on Working with Men as Parents and another on the Intersections of Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health, which attracted over 100 participants. S&T staff also presented an in-person training on Intersections in Columbus in July.

A total of 55 counties have completed the Safe and Together™ model training, seven of which completed CORE for the first time in just the past 15 months. Muskingum County is set to become the 56th county in Ohio to introduce the training when it hosts Safe and Together™ CORE in May 2019. The map below identifies counties trained in the model.

Current efforts focus on reaching untrained counties, establishing regular trainings for new workers in counties with high turnover (Cuyahoga and Summit counties have started offering regular CORE trainings), building supervisory capacity, reviewing implementation strategies, and planning additional training support opportunities.

Ohio Counties Trained in Safe and Together™

- 2010 Pilot Counties
- 2011-2014 Expansion Counties
- 2014-2015 Regional Expansion
- 2015-2016 Regional Expansion
- 2017-2018 Expansion Counties
- Booster/Refresher Core Trainings, # of times repeated
- Worker Turnover Rate
- Advanced Trainings Post-Core
- Ohio Child Welfare Training Program Regional Training Center

Ohio Children’s Justice Act 2019-2021
These activities reform state systems by implementing a significant shift in how communities address child maltreatment when intimate partner violence is a factor within the home. This approach moves from a short-term, segmented, and crisis-based reaction to a holistic, community partnership approach which focuses on the long-term safety of the child while holding caregivers accountable.

**Programming to Address Substance Use Disorder**

**Task Force Recommendation:** Support experimental, model and demonstration programming that addresses substance use disorders within the families that come to the attention of the child welfare system.

*Note: The support of family dependency treatments courts and the key elements of a treatment court is an ongoing Task Force activity.*

**Child Welfare: Promoting Positive Outcomes for Families with Substance Use Disorder**

To support the children services agency’s role in improving outcomes for families that come to the attention of the child welfare system experiencing a substance use disorder (SUD), Casey Family Programs and CIA jointly sponsored competitive allocations to one PCSA who participates as an active members of a family dependency treatment court (FDTC). Applications were limited to PCSAs with a FDTC in order to build upon the experience and collaborative working relationship of a proficient or emerging FDTC. Applications were required to be developed in partnership with the FDTC team and limited to the following menu of activities:

- Universal Screening
- Family Peer Mentors/Recovery Coaches
- Scale
- Infusion
- Competency and Efficiency

It was specifically stated that funds only could be used to support long-term integration of a new activity or component of work that enhances outcomes for families who are experiencing SUD and could not be used to supplant the cost of existing activities or staff, pay treatment costs except as clearly demonstrated to be for the purpose of validating effectiveness or efficiency of a planned system change, support activities that would be considered within the scope of currently expected professional responsibilities. The awardee selected the following activities:

- Scioto County: Train staff on and begin using the UNCOPE screening tool to identify families with increased risk of SUD. Within 60 days of identification, families will be referred to a treatment facility and to FDTC. The agency will collaborate with
community partners to obtain monthly reports to monitor family progress. Progress and effectiveness of the use of the tool will be measured via reunification and FDTC completion rates.

In accepting funds, awardee committed to continue to work with members of the county family dependency treatment court to collaboratively support the key principles of a family dependency treatment court as identified through the Supreme Court of Ohio certification process. Additionally, awardee understood that the county will be eligible for additional step-down funding if the county:

a. Submits a nine-month status report by August 30, 2019 in the required format.

b. Demonstrates measurable progress in the scope of work set forth in the approved application and scope of work.

c. Demonstrates a continued collaborative approach with members of the county family dependency treatment.

d. Submits a plan for continued use of step-down funding that is approved by the agreement manager.

e. Submits a method for measuring progress of step-down activities.

In addition, the five 2017 awardees who met step down eligibility requirements were allocated additional funds through Casey Family Programs in 2018. Their plans for continued use of the funds are as follows:

**Huron County**

Huron county trained all child welfare staff on the UNCOPE screening tool. They developed a process to distribute, collect, and process all completed screening tools. A database was also developed to track responses. In addition, the agency assigned a caseworker to the Huron County Family Dependency Treatment Court and partnered with mental health providers to develop a comprehensive referral packet.

Initially, the screening tool was distributed to clients when services were requested in person at the agency or via mail when requested over the phone as an attachment to agency paper applications; for services.; Family support Benefit Package, Health Coverage Package, Child Support IVD, Application, PRC Application and the Child Care Application. Clients were also given a self-addressed stamped envelope marked UNCOPE to return the completed document to the agency. In July 2018, Huron also began completing the screening tool during the initial assessment period on new reports of child abuse and neglect.

During the nine-month review period, 361 UNCOPE Screening tools were complete; 325 were from applications, and 36 were completed in person by caseworkers. Of the 361 completed tools, 43 respondents were identified as having an increased risk for substance use disorder.
respondents were sent a letter and a Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services referral packet.

With step-down funds, Huron County plans to:

- Fully integrate the use of UNCOPE throughout agency practice
- Provide UNCOPE training through the regional training center to agency, court and mental health staff
- Continue to screen families for substance use disorders who present to the agency either voluntarily or via a referral
- Work with Huron County Juvenile Court (HCJC) to add the UNCOPE Assessment as a paper survey to any applications deemed appropriate
- Enhance the UNCOPE database and identify a staff person to input UNCOPE results in the database
- Implement a process to track the number of UNCOPE assessments distributed via paper survey

Logan County

Logan County used funding to contract with a Peer Recovery Coach to meet with Family Treatment Court (FTC) participants during the orientation phase. During the reporting period, the coach worked with 100% (27) of the FTC participants to develop an individualized recovery plan. Utilizing a recovery coach has positively contributed to counseling attendance, sober support meeting attendance, treatment and recovery outcomes, relationships with other participants in recovery, and has led to a reduction in the length of stay for out of home placements.

Logan County will use the step down funding to continue to contract with their Peer Recovery Coach. The coach will meet with 100% of the FTC participants within the first 30 days of entering the program to develop a recovery plan. In addition, the coach will support/train participants with planning and scheduling to improve treatment and court attendance.

Belmont County

With the Promoting Positive Outcomes for Families with SUD funding, a Belmont County team of child welfare staff, court staff, and community partners attended the Evidenced-Based Pathways Conference sponsored by Joyfields Institute.

Belmont County used step down funding to send a multi-disciplinary team to the 12th National Counseling Advances Conference in Las Vegas on March 19-22, 2019. Conference topics included treatment of complex trauma, co-occurring disorders, the trauma beneath opiate addiction,
chronic pain and addiction, opioid use and abuse, and addiction and compulsivity. The team’s conference participation goals include identifying treatment approaches and skills for a range of issues in addictions and co-occurring disorders and to use the time to reevaluate current practices and discuss any changes needed.

**Trumbull County**

Trumbull County Children Services (TCCS) funds were used to institute a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Universal Screening program, and to aid in the development of a MOU to address the requirements of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). For a period of six months, starting on March 1, 2018, TCCS used the UNCOPE Screening Tool to assess parents who came to the agency’s attention through an accepted report of child abuse or neglect for SUD issues. During this period, 397 UNCOPE screenings were completed by TCCS Caseworkers. These screenings were documented in SACWIS and entered in an online data base developed and implemented by the agency’s Quality Assurance (QA) Department.

To further enhance the county’s ability to promote positive outcomes for families with SUD, TCCS and Trumbull County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) jointly applied for and received a federal demonstration grant from National Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams (QIC-CCCT) for the Trumbull County Substance Use Disorder Engagement (T-SUDE) Initiative. The T-SUDE Initiative is a cross-system collaborative effort designed to address the requirements of the CARA, parental SUDs, and the related increase in the number of children entering foster care.

Step-Down funding was used to bring in Dr. Ira Chasnoff to “kick off” the development of Trumbull County’s CARA MOU in the first quarter of 2019. TCCS and FDTC staff, representatives from Trumbull County’s three hospitals, and the county’s SUD treatment providers were invited to attend the presentation.

**Ottawa County**

Ottawa County Promoting Positive Outcomes for Families with SUD funds were used to implement the use of a Substance Use Disorder Universal Screening tool during assessments and reassessments. Funds were also used to provide the Trauma Informed Care training and Screening and Intervention with Trauma and Substance Use Disorders training to staff and community partners. Ottawa used funds to assess and remove Family Dependency Treatment Court transportation barriers for clients. As a result, the agency began contracting with two transportation service providers. Finally, Ottawa provided community training regarding relationship between traumatic events, trauma informed care and substance use as mechanism for self-medication and link to substance use disorder.
Ottawa will use step down funds to

- Train new staff on the use of the universal screening tool
- Begin integrating use of the tool at every level of the child welfare case
- Increase FDTC participation by providing transportation services for clients
- Provide incentives to clients to attend and enhance connection to the recovery community
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the FDTC through quarterly training with court staff

Reform of State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Protocols, and Procedures to Provide Comprehensive Protection for Children

Guardian Ad Litem Rule and Practice Review Initiative


As detailed in past reports, the Task Force has spent significant time reviewing state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures relating to guardian ad litem (GAL) practice and making specific recommendations to the existing Rule 48 of the Supreme Court Rules of Superintendence as it relates to GAL practice and training in abuse and neglect cases. As of last year’s Annual Report, the following tasks had been completed: Workgroup formed under CAND; Rule revisions drafted; CAND reviewed and approved rule revisions; Advisory Committee on Children and Families reviewed and approved rule revisions; Initial review and approval by the Supreme Court of Ohio Justices; Revised rules posted for public comment; and Workgroup reconvened to review comments and revise as appropriate. Since such time, final revisions were made to Rule of Superintendence 48. The Task Force reviewed and approved the final version, with one additional amendment, at the January 30, 2019 Subcommittee meeting. The Advisory Committee on Children and Families reviewed and voted to approve the revised rule at the January 30, 2019 Advisory Committee meeting. The Rule has moved to the Commission on Rules of Superintendence for review and drafting, and the final step to be completed is a review and approval by the Justices of the Supreme Court of Ohio.
Child in Need of Protective Services

Task Force Recommendation: Re-examine the proposed Child in Need of Protective Services legislative language.

As detailed in previous reports, the Task Force initially decided to reengage with the Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) proposed legislation by focusing on three sub-components of the initial legislative proposal, instead of the comprehensive approach. This approach was preferred in order to effectuate immediate change without the pushback or other negative reactions from proposing an entire system overhaul. The selected subcomponents were determined to be those with the most immediate need for review: Dependency, Sexual Harm, and Harm by Substance Misuse. For each subcomponent, the Task Force reviewed the concerns with present language and proposed changes were discussed in the context of both these concerns and multistate research. As discussions continued, the Task Force, with new membership since the last attempt at a comprehensive CHIPS proposed, suggested returning to a complete rewrite of the state AND system instead of focusing on the three subcomponents. Once the varying approaches were discussed, the Task Force determined that in light of the simultaneous systemic changes stemming from FFPSA in place, the focus should be on a full comprehensive approach.

To complete the legwork needed to begin another comprehensive CHIPS proposal, a CHIPS workgroup was formed. In the interim, the Family and Youth Law Center has worked to create a workgroup packet containing historical CHIPS information, areas of exploration, and other relevant research to inform the workgroup members. This workgroup plans to conduct its first meeting in May 2019 and the first step after a brief review is to immediately begin work on new proposed language for the comprehensive legislative proposal.

Workgroup on Juvenile Justice in Child Welfare

Note: This activity was brought to the Task Force’s attention; it is not associated with a Task Force Recommendation.

Commenced in June 2017, this workgroup was a joint endeavor by the Task Force and the Supreme Court of Ohio’s Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice. The workgroup was tasked with a review and examination of issues related to crossover youth—those part of both the child welfare system and who are facing unruly and/or delinquency issues in the juvenile justice system. Specifically, the workgroup sought to:

- Review Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model Interim Solution (CAPMIS) to identify application for both the unruly/delinquency population served by an agency acting as a child welfare agency and those that are not; research and review other instruments that might be specific to this population;
• Understand ODJFS’ Child Protective and Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) process and Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process to become familiar with the standards that the agency is held to and monitored in relation to;

• Identify and/or develop new tools to recommend for agency use when working with the unruly/delinquent population that are compliant with all applicable regulations and supports best practices and associated training; and suggest other policy-related items for consideration to support implementation of new tools.

After completion of extensive educational sessions, the workgroup reviewed selected CAPMIS tools and drafted recommendations to each, pursuant to the workgroup charge. Simultaneous changes to SAWCIS and other reporting tools led the workgroup to conclude that additional revisions were not necessary. During the January 30, 2019 Subcommittee meeting, the workgroup presented a formal Memorandum of Training Recommendations addressed to ODJFS, which included an ODJFS-developed training to accompany CAPMIS tools and a clear definition of all required training. The subcommittee unanimously voted to approve the workgroup’s training recommendations. The Advisory Committee also voted to approve the workgroup’s training recommendations.

**CFSR/Quality Hearing Project Workgroup**

As a direct result of feedback received from the CFSR process, and through partnership with CIP and CJA, the Quality Hearing Project was developed to explore current practice in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency hearings across the state. The goal of the project is to assess the current quality of dependency court practice in a strategic sampling of hearings and counties in the state to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. The study will answer the following questions:

1. What does current AND hearing practice look like across the state?
2. What are the strengths of current practice?
3. What are the opportunities for enhancement of practice?
4. How does hearing practice relate to case outcomes?

The CIP Coordinator contracted with Dr. Alicia Summer to review hearings using a structured court observation tool and collect information on the hearing practice, including which parties are present, how parties are engaged in discussion, what topics are discussed at hearings, and what findings are made on the record. The 12 participating sites were asked to provide a sample of recorded Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Shelter Care and Permanency/Annual Review hearings; a minimum of ten and a maximum of 30. If possible, sites were asked to include Shelter Care and Annual Review hearings for the same case. A total of 341 hearings were reviewed and coded by Dr. Summers and her team. The chart reflects the number of hearings submitted by site.
Each site will receive a Summary of Findings from their site that describes current AND practice in these hearings. This information can be used to begin discussions of hearing strengths and opportunities.

The researcher has active human subjects protection training and will sign a confidentiality agreement with each of the project sites, ensuring that no confidential information will be collected or reported in any of the data. Because recorded hearings contained confidential information, families were be identified by a case number (with no names) and recorded hearings were deleted after coding so that no identifying information on the families is available. The researcher worked with sites to ensure secure data transfers occurred. All data was reported on an aggregate level (not case specific) to further ensure anonymity of cases. Statewide reports were also aggregated.

While the hearing recording collection and analysis was underway, the workgroup first met in December 2018 to review and approve the charge and discuss future plans. The workgroup convened again on March 6, 2019 to attend Dr. Summers’ presentation of Ohio statewide data. This data report will guide the workgroup’s recommendations and also will guide the creative of a supplement to the existing Dependency Bench Card. The workgroup is presently examining forms and report examples from various Ohio counties and other states to analyze and determine what might be included in a new form for caseworkers to use to provide courts with the data needed to conduct AND hearings. The workgroup is scheduled to meet again in May 2019. Dr. Summers will also be presenting county-specific data to each participating county via webinar.
Website

The Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND) website, http://www.ohiochildlaw.org has been a very effective tool for the Subcommittee over the years. The Task Force has identified its intent to redesign and upgrade this website, and this process is underway via the Task Force’s contracted staffing with the Family and Youth Law Center.

Having an updated website that is user and mobile friendly will allow the work of the subcommittee to reach more people in the community.
The Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency (CAND) functions under the Supreme Court of Ohio’s standing Advisory Committee on Children and Families. A diverse group of professionals in all areas of issues related to children and families, the Subcommittee also functions as the Children’s Justice Act Task force. CAND members also make up content-specific workgroups formed out of the core subcommittee.
Prior Year Budget Expenditure Line Item

Over this past year, Children’s Justice Act dollars supported the following activities:

1. Regional and state multidisciplinary team training opportunities:
   a. Improving case investigation and prosecution of human trafficking of minor victims.
   b. Improving counties’ approaches to working with families where there is substance use disorder and who come to the attention of the child welfare system.
   c. Creating an enhanced understanding of Ohio’s Safe and Together™ practices within Ohio’s judicial communities.

2. Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative county expansion and sustainability.
3. ODJFS and SCO collaborations:
   a. Research and staffing for CAND and various workgroups.
   b. Judicial College course development.
4. Attendance at the federally initiated Children’s Justice Act meeting.

**Proposed Activities/Applications**

*Description of proposed activities for the upcoming year:* Ohio will use Federal Fiscal Year 2019-2021 Children’s Justice Act monies to focus on the Task Force’s recommendations to:

1. Support regional multidisciplinary training opportunities that promote stakeholder-driven action planning.
2. Promote and support Ohio’s PIP to address CFSR areas needing improvement.
3. Support and promote reform of state laws and procedures to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect.
4. Continue support to ensure that alleged child victims of sexual assault have access skilled and competent medical services.
5. Continue support to maintain Ohio’s system for responding to intimate partner violence within a differential response framework.
6. Support implementation of experimental, model, and demonstration programs designed to improve and coordinate substance use disorder services on behalf of families who come to the attention of the child welfare and judicial systems.
7. Provide continued research, communication and support services to the Task Force and its workgroups.
8. Support recommendations of the Task Force’s workgroups and ongoing efforts.

1. **Improving Team Performance**

   *Proposed Activity*

   Ohio completed its Round 3 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Self-Assessment in 2017. In March 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented its findings on key measurements and identified those areas needing improvement for which the state needed to develop a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The first draft of the PIP was submitted in June of 2018 and was not approved. Federal reviewers noted that although the plan was moving in the right direction, there was insufficient analyses of the root causes of identified problems and key pieces were missing from the plan. In response to Federal review comments, the state conducted more in-depth analyses of SACWIS
data, re-convened the PIP Planning Committee to identify potential concerns and causal factors, and implemented surveys of caseworkers, supervisors, and administrators in CFSR counties to further clarify possible root causes.

The next version of Ohio’s PIP was submitted on April 29, 2019. This version focuses on improving the key casework practice issues of assessment, engagement, and service delivery. Since these approaches require an interlocking system based upon a cooperative understanding of roles and responsibilities, Children’s Justice Act monies will be used to support the fifteen counties that participated in Ohio’s CFSR to collaboratively identify and implement strategies to improve performance, including both statewide and local strategies. Statewide strategies include:

- Developing a cohort of expert practitioners to partner in ongoing solution focused efforts of skill building and continuous quality improvement of engagement, assessment, and service delivery.
- ODJFS subject matter experts will collaborate with each CFSR county on their individual strengths and needs in instituting a joint continuous quality improvement process.
- Establish and provide a common foundation for effective assessment and service delivery.
- Address key service gaps regarding specific service needs pertaining to safety and risk concerns.
- Improve the percentage of timely intake initiation and timely initial face-to-face contact with alleged child victims and child subjects of reports in accordance with Ohio policy.
- Make available remote tools that caseworkers can utilize to record information quickly, leading to caseworkers having time to engage with children and families.
- Utilize an evidence-based strategy to address agency culture and climate, employee turnover and low staff morale.
- Address challenges experienced by caseworkers in determining who is to be interviewed, participate in the development of the case plan, provided with services, and visited by caseworkers.
- Update the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM)
- Work with two counties to implement targeted strategies to reduce court delays throughout the child welfare court case process from shelter care through Termination of Parental Rights.
- Create a bench guide and a court report that can be utilized to increase best practices at hearings. Provide training on the use of these tools.

In addition to the statewide strategies described above, counties will have the opportunity to participate in various pilot programs to assist in improving outcomes.
Goals

- Improve the ability of the agency to effectively identify and address safety and risk issues and ensure children’s safety and well-being.
- Enhance the overall strength and health of the child welfare workforce.
- Improve Caseworker Engagement with Parents and Children.
- Ensure that children achieve permanency in a timely manner.

Extent to which this project/activity contributes to the reform of State systems’ handling of cases of child abuse and neglect

Activities will produce a systemic improvement of the fundamental principles in the handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, promote a model of interdisciplinary planning, and establish replicable strategies for continuous quality improvement. Additionally, these activities will aid in strengthening the collaboration between ODJFS, the court, and the county agencies.

Task Force Recommendation/Goal

This activity seeks to address the Task Force’s ongoing recommendation to support regional multidisciplinary training opportunities that promote stakeholder-driven action planning. This also addresses the Task Force’s intent to promote Ohio’s PIP and address CFSR areas needing improvement.

Evaluation Methods

- Stakeholder-driven action plan
- Six-month status report showing substantive progress in identified measures
- CFSR findings

2. **Child In Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) Workgroup**

   Proposed Activity

   The Task Force plans to continue with a comprehensive Child in Need of Protective Services legislative proposal within the specific CHIPS workgroup. The workgroup’s first meeting is scheduled for May 2019, with plans to start with a historical review, including a review of the previous proposed legislation. With research completed prior to the first meeting, the workgroup can focus on moving quickly to making changes and working toward securing support from stakeholders and legislators.

Goals

- Develop a recommendation for a Child in Need of Protective Services [CHIPS] framework to replace the current abuse, neglect, dependency adjudicatory model
- Use feedback to focus on the needs of Ohio’s children to create a proposal likely to garner support and eventual implementation
Extent to which this project/activity contributes to the reform of State systems’ handling of cases of child abuse and neglect

This activity seeks to create clear and consistent statewide criteria for initial child abuse screening decisions and to ensure Ohio law relating to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect properly serves children and families in need of government intervention.

Task Force Recommendations/Goals

This activity seeks to address the Task Force’s recommendation to support and promote reform of state laws and procedures to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect.

3. Training and Support for First Responders

Proposed activities.

- Ensure that child victims of sexual abuse have access to skilled medical services regardless of geographic location.
- Provide professionals who may be the first interviewers of child sexual abuse victims a basic understanding of the dynamics of forensic interviewing for this special population.
- Programming will support:
  a. Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse and telemedical programming.
  b. PSANE Instruction.
  c. Peer Review of Forensic Interviews.
  d. Beyond the Silence Forensic Interview Training.

Goals

- Increase competence and capability of pediatric sexual assault nurses to conduct skilled medical evaluations and evidence collection for alleged child victims of sexual assault.
- Maintain quality of telemedical programming.
- Support the development of basic forensic interviewing skills in any first responder who may come into contact with alleged child victims of sexual assault.
- Develop a sustainability plan for institutionalization of programing.

Extent to which this project/activity contributes to the reform of State systems handling of cases of child abuse and neglect

These activities contribute to the development of a statewide infrastructure that serves child victims of sexual abuse through skilled professionals with specialized expertise regardless of geography.
**Task Force Recommendation/Goal**

This activity seeks to address the Task Force’s recommendation to ensure that child victims of sexual abuse have access to skilled and competent services regardless of geography. In addition, data shared earlier in the report suggests the need for continued support.

**Evaluation Methods**

- Competence and quality of PSANE assessed through peer review.
- Competence and quality of PSANE assessed through participating physician review.
- Number of participants in Beyond the Silence instruction.
- Pre- and post-test training assessments.
- Demonstration of acquired skills through critiqued role play.

4. **Intimate Partner Violence**

*Proposed Activities*

- Continue implementation of the “Safe and Together” model as an intimate partner violence intervention
- Maintain Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative

**Goals**

- Safe and Together™ is more fully integrated into existing Ohio child welfare practice and systems.
- Policies and materials are established that clearly identify the ways in which Safe and Together™ programming supports PCSA in addressing current and pressing child welfare issues.
- A consistent, statewide understanding of The Safe and Together™ model is achieved.

**Extent to which this project/activity contributes to the reform of State systems’ handling of cases of child abuse and neglect**

Ohio’s Intimate Partner Collaborative is implementing a significant shift in how communities address child maltreatment when intimate partner violence is a factor within the home. This approach moves from a short-term, segmented, and crisis-based reaction to a holistic, community partnership approach which focuses on the long-term safety of the child while holding caregivers accountable.

**Task Force Recommendation/Goal**

This activity seeks to address the Task Force’s recommendation to promote and support Ohio’s PIP to address CFSR areas needing improvement and continue support to maintain Ohio’s system for responding to intimate partner violence within a differential response framework.
Evaluation Methods

- Core training is provided regularly at each of Ohio’s eight regional training centers.
- Safe and Together becomes the single training option which meets domestic violence training requirements through the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.
- Data collection indicates an increased understanding of Ohio’s Safe and Together model.

5. Child Welfare, Courts and Substance Use Disorder

Proposed activities.

The Task Force will support local efforts to coordinate services and protocols on behalf of families where there is substance abuse or addiction, and who come to the attention of the judicial and child welfare systems. CIA funds will be used to award grants that meet the criteria established through the Task Force and Court Improvement Program.

Goals

- Support PCSA to adopt the practice of universal substance use disorder screening as a function of initial assessment.
- Support family dependency treatment courts in expanding the number of families served.
- Support juvenile courts in infusing the key element(s) of a family dependency treatment court into a general docket serving abused, neglected and dependent children where substance use is a factor in the abuse, neglect or dependency.
- Support family dependency treatment courts in enhancing proficiency, expertise, process, effectiveness or collaboration within the PCSA’s or community’s approach to substance use disorder.
- Support the design, implementation, and testing of new and innovative strategies that meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and address the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of infants, young children, and their parents or caregivers.

Extent to which this project/activity contributes to the reform of State systems’ handling of cases of child abuse and neglect

These activities contribute to the development of a statewide approach to intervening on behalf of families who come to the attention of child welfare services due to a substance use disorder by building upon the principles and network of Ohio’s family dependency treatment courts. This activity encourages the development of multi-system, county-based solutions that are supported by state-level policy and collaboration.
Task Force Recommendation/Goal
This activity seeks to address the Task Force’s ongoing recommendation to support implementation of experimental, model, and demonstration programs designed to improve and coordinate substance use disorder services on behalf of families who come to the attention of the child welfare and judicial systems.

Evaluation Methods
- Substantive progress on grantee-identified measurements is demonstrated.
- Increased capture of substance use in Ohio’s Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System through documentation of voluntary universal screening.

6. Task Force Research, Communication, and Support
Proposed activities
This activity is to secure administrative and task-oriented support at the direction of the Task Force, to include:

- Staffing and administrative support of the Task Force and its workgroups.
- Development and implementation of research as approved by the Task Force and its workgroups.
- Development of reports and documents as requested by the Task Force and its workgroups.
- Arrangement, participation in, and preparation for public and professional education activities as requested by CAND.
- Maintenance of Task Force communications.
- Development of public information documents at the direction of CAND.

Extent to which this project/activity contributes to the reform of State systems’ handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

The research and support activities of the Task Force document and provide the foundational basis for the Task Force’s work to implement systemic change.

7. Children’s Justice Act Administration
Proposed Activities
Funds will be used to support the expenses associated with participation in at least one federally-initiated Children’s Justice Act meeting.

How this activity reforms State systems.
This activity is a required eligibility criterion for states’ receipt of Children’s Justice Act funding.
## Budget Recap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving Team Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child in Need of Protective Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training &amp; Support for First Responders</td>
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<td>Intimate Partner Violence</td>
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<td>Child Welfare, Courts and SUD</td>
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<td>Task Force Research, Communication &amp; Support</td>
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<td>Children’s Justice Act Administration</td>
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