Communities of Support Grant

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Office of Families and Children

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Ohio Family and Children First
Purpose

Offer this grant opportunity to continue supporting existing and new local community planning and coordinated service delivery efforts.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

The Ohio Family and Children First Council (OFCF)

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Priorities

The following priorities are critical to ensure the necessary collaborative cross-system work can best meet the needs of children and families:

1) Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) plans of safe care;
2) Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) level of care assessments; and
3) Community-based aftercare planning for children discharged from residential treatment settings.

The grants will allow communities:

- To assess the local needs for these priorities,
- To establish best practices,
- To prepare for any necessary budget considerations for implementation and/or sustainability.
Overview of the Project

This grant has been created to:

A. Establish and create community networks and infrastructures to provide comprehensive community services.

B. Develop a Sustainability Plan.

C. Develop a plan to provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements. The specific services include but are not limited to:

a. CARA Plans of Safe Care.

b. Qualified Residential Treatment Program Level of Care Assessments (i.e. Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)).

c. Qualified Residential Treatment Program After Care Planning.
Objectives of the Project

Partnering Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) and Public Children Service Agencies (PCSA) can apply for two different levels of funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prong 1</th>
<th>Prong 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FCFCs or PCSAs may apply for $10,000 in planning funds to establish and determine sustainable support for FCFC councils and community networks to provide comprehensive community services. To receive this funding the applying entity must:</td>
<td>Targeted support to plan, provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements.</td>
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<td>✓ Identify and receive a letter of commitment from community partners.</td>
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<td>✓ Develop a Sustainability Plan.</td>
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Objectives of the Project – **Prong 1**

**Identify and receive a letter of commitment from community partners that include but are not limited to entities such as:**

- Birthing hospitals
- PCSA
- County Department of Job and Family Services
- Behavioral/Mental Health Services
- Local Health Department
- Family Children First Council
- Boards of Developmental Disabilities
- ADAMH Board
- Community Health Board
- County Commissioner Representative
- Federally Qualified Health Center
- Others Identified by Community (i.e. Representatives from Managed Care plans, youth services, municipality, head start, early intervention collaboration, etc.).

**Sustainability Plan – Plans must include, but not be limited to:**

- What is the Community Network meeting schedule?
- Who will set the agenda?
- How will emergency situations be handled? Who should be the point of contact?
- What services will/do each partner provide?
- If your community does not have the service where is the service available?
- If a service is not in your community how will you ensure assistance with transportation?
- What is the collective impact of our cross-system collaboration?
Objectives of the Project – Prong 2

**Applying entities must:**

- Explain how they will provide targeted support to plan.

- Provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements in the following areas:
  - CARA Plans of Safe Care
  - QRTP Level of Care Assessments
  - QRTP After Care Planning
## Funding Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prong 1: Identification &amp; Commitment</th>
<th>$10,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prong 2: Funding Available by county size:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small (population 49,999 and below) – 39 counties</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium (population 233,000-50,000) – 40 counties</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large (population 300,000 and above) – 9 counties</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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[https://www.ohio-demographics.com/counties_by_population](https://www.ohio-demographics.com/counties_by_population)
Timeframes

- Grants will commence upon notification of grant and funding approvals, and end on June 30, 2021, with the option to renew the agreement(s) for an additional 2 years.

- This is a rolling grant opportunity which means grants will be reviewed for approval in the order they are received, or as long as funding allows from the grant release date until March 31, 2021.

- The later the application the shorter the timeframe as all grants will end June 30, 2021 unless the state elects to use the optional extension.
Communities of Support
Grant Planning Process

Beth Race, Executive Director

Helping to Ensure Youth & Families Thrive
Education, government, health systems, and nonprofits represented with shared data, resources & funding, update on impact of local/state system changes, and options for engagement in council initiatives.

**Admin Council:** 40+ members meet 5xs annually

**Executive Committee:** 9 members who meet monthly

**Director’s Lunch:** DD, CS/JFS, Courts, Education, MHARS 4xs per yr.

**FCFC Subcommittees:** needs assessment, track trends/resources, host PD & events
Cross Systems, Coalition, Shared Plan

**Wraparound System Partner Teams:** Assist in identifying & funding needs
Clinical Committee/Community Resource
Shared Plan Goals

-Trauma Responsive & Resilient Communities: Shared Language, TIC Standard with Community Components for Multiple Systems, & Model to Implement/Measure

-Transition-Aged Youth: Work so that when youth become adults they are thriving and no longer need systems, but if they do create better transition, increase knowledge of resources, target empathy gap & discuss trends with youth/families involved in wraparound

-Past plan: No Wrong Door-Customer Service + Organized Community Resources

Align & leverage work with caring community grant goals, FFPSA, MSY, Ohio Rise
Communities of Support: Application To Be Submitted

PLANNING - CANS capacity, participation stipends to Directors to prepare for FFPSA & Ohio Rise and improve MSY, inform/join statewide committees, & partnership with Cincinnati Children’s and behavioral health providers.

IMPLEMENTATION - FCFC staff member to provide resource referral/wraparound, build relationships with families/systems & embed in identified systems with high-risk families to engage sooner, & inform ongoing planning with systems partners.
Fairfield County

Donna Fox-Moore
Possible Areas of Focus – CARA Plans of Safe Care

In moving towards consistency of Plans of Safe Care (PoSC) across Ohio, the biggest barriers which have been identified are:

- Hospital “buy in” of the Plan of Safe Care

- Cross communication and information sharing between agencies serving these infants and identified families

- County wide education and trainings across agencies working with this identified population

- Plan for monitoring referrals which are screened out by child welfare – cases can get “lost” in the system when multiple agencies are involved and no identification of who is the lead agency
Possible Areas of Focus – CARA Plans of Safe Care

Examples of ideas of how Community of Support Grants can be utilized by counties:

- Plan of Safe Care Coordinator position

- Creation of a standard **Release of Information** between agencies to allow for communication and sharing of information on mother, infant, and any identified caregiver living in the home of the identified infant

- Education of community partners working with this identified population; including:
  - Brochures/informational packets
  - Trainings
  - Community Meetings

- Sustainability plan
Possible Areas of Focus – CARA Plans of Safe Care

Examples of ideas of how Community of Support Grants can be utilized by counties (continued):

- **Data reporting – cross system communication regarding families served**
  - # of families served
  - # of infants
  - # of caregivers
  - Service information – linkages to services
  - Identification of success – what does this look like?
  - # of referrals back to child welfare of cases identified to meet CARA guidelines
  - Monthly reports shared
  - Documentation standards throughout family involvement
Possible Areas of Focus – QRTP Level of Care Assessment

PCSAs can partner with their local FCFC to contract with the FCFC or a community behavioral health provider to develop a system including:

• PCSA provides the names, contact information, and placement information for the youth requiring an assessment to the organization.
• The organization identifies and organizes meetings/interviews with the youth, parents/guardians, custodians, and the youth’s service providers.
• Independent Assessor conducts meetings/interviews with these individuals.
• Organization develops a process to bill Medicaid/private insurance for eligible activities.
• Independent Assessor completes assessment and makes a determination.
• Organization develops a process to ensure Assessment and determination are communicated to PCSA within XX days.
Possible Areas of Focus – QRTP Aftercare

PCSAs can partner with local non-residential behavioral health providers to develop a system including:

• Organization representative participates in Discharge Planning Meetings.
• Organization is assigned after-care activities in collaboration with PCSA and Residential Provider.
• Organization develops a process to bill Medicaid/private insurance for eligible activities.
Frequently Asked Questions

Can non-profit businesses apply?

No, only partnering Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) and Public Children Service Agencies (PCSA) can apply for funding. The entity not applying must be a named partner to receive funding (i.e. the PCSA applies the Family Children First Council must be a participating community partner).

The RFP lists the option of applying for either funding option. If funding for only Prong 1 is requested, is it possible to later apply for Prong 2?

Entities may apply for Prong 2 funding later/after applying for Prong 1. The deadline for applicants to submit applications to ODJFS is March 31, 2021.
For Prong 2, do all three areas (CARA Plans of Safe Care, QRTP Level of Care Assessments & QRTP After Care Planning) need to be addressed in the response or can two be selected as the focus?

ODJFS highly encourages entities to deliver all three areas of Prong 2: CARA Plans of Safe Care, QRTP Level of Care Assessments, QRTP After Care Planning. However, entity has flexibility to focus only on one or two areas of Prong 2.

What are allowable expenditures for the funds?

Grantees will have flexibility in allocating eligible funding within the scope of the RFGA while meeting RFGA deliverables and target population. ODJFS will reimburse grantees for actual allowable expenditures. The selected applicants will be required to submit invoices along with receipts and supporting documentation for actual costs incurred.
Frequently Asked Questions

Can the funds be used for staff costs to complete the plans of safe care and CANS assessments?

Yes, please complete both Attachment A and Appendix A of the application.

Do the letters of collaboration for Prong 1 need to be secured/submitted with the application or is a plan to secure the letters expected?

Deliverable 1 requires entity to provide the Letter of Commitment from community partners. The entity is required to perform its responsibilities after the agreement is signed. ODJFS highly encourages entities to submit the letter with the application.

What forms and attachments must be submitted to complete the application?

It is required to complete and submit the following forms: Attachment A “Required Grantee Information and Certification” and Appendix A “Community of Support Application.”
Frequently Asked Questions

Based upon the release date of this funding opportunity, the funds will be for 6-7 months with the opportunity for "optional renewals." Thus, are the maximum grant awards prorated for this 6-7 month time frame? Or would this be the total amount which would likely be available for a SFY22 full year grant?

Grants will commence upon notification of grant and funding approvals, and end on June 30, 2021, with the option to renew the agreement(s) for an additional 2 years. The agreement period is expected to run from approximately December 2020 through June 30, 2021, with an option renewal to be in effect from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 if funds allow. Renewal of the agreement(s) will be contingent upon availability of funding, satisfactory performance, the continued need for the services described, and all required approvals.

Is it anticipated that the "optional renewals" for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, and July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 will be for the same award amounts?

ODJFS anticipates that the option to renew the agreement(s) for additional two years will be for the same award amounts and funding breakdown as identified in the Prong 1 and Prong 2.
Frequently Asked Questions

Will grantees be reimbursed for producing the actual deliverables (plans, procedures, etc.), or for expenses incurred producing the deliverables?

Grantees will have flexibility in allocating eligible funding within the scope of the RFGA while meeting RFGA deliverables and target population. ODJFS will reimburse grantees for actual allowable expenditures (actual deliverables expenses and expenses incurred producing the deliverables). The selected applicants will be required to submit invoices along with receipts and supporting documentation for actual costs incurred.
Frequently Asked Questions

**What expenses are allowable or unallowable?**

The Communities of Support (COS) opportunity is funded with both federal and state dollars. The state dollars may be used toward any allowable child welfare activity. Unallowable cost items are costs that are not used in carrying out the tenets of the federal award such as entertainment, goods or services for personal use, alcohol, some advertising and public relations costs, bad debts, donations and contributions, organized fund raising, fines and penalties, and lobbying (2 CFR 225).

Salaries would be an allowable expense so long as it is being paid to support activities allowable under the award. For the COS opportunity, this would be those collaborative efforts in carrying out the plans of safe care, the assessments being performed to determine if the QRTP setting is necessary, and in assisting to make a child’s transition out of a residential setting as seamless as possible. Whereas other federal grants do place limitation on the percentage of the total award that may be used for personnel costs, CA/CARA does not. Other than the activities provided above that are unallowable across all federal awards, the only limitation is the activities performed cannot be inconsistent with the grant requirements.
THANK YOU

Questions?