Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)
Office of Families and Children

Policy and Practice Guidance Document #016
Best Practice Incentive

November 12, 2021

Background

On October 25, 2021, the Office of Families and Children issued Families and Children Letter (FCL) 016, Best Practice Incentive Program. This FCL announced Ohio’s Best Practice Incentive program for Public Children Services Agencies. This program was implemented as a result of Governor DeWine signing Amended Substitute House Bill Number 110 (HB 110) on June 30, 2021, which appropriated $5 million in funding per State Fiscal Year (SFY) dedicated to strengthening best practices to help achieve better outcomes for children, youth, and families. FCL 016 outlined Ohio’s new Best Practice funding strategy, which incentivizes two measures fundamental to Children Services mission:

- Assessments/Investigations completed on-time, and
- A composite visitation score of all required face to face visits with children and parents

Guidance

ODJFS would like to provide additional guidance for potential uses for counties awarded Best Practice Incentive funding.

This guidance is not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Best Practice Funds can be used for any Public Agency child welfare services intended to promote coordination and delivery of services to families.
# FCL 016 Potential Uses for Best Practice Funds – October 2021

| Administration services to provide efficient administration of IV-B activities such as: | • Computer services  
• Management  
• Personnel functions |
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<td>Adoption services intended to maintain the stability of adoptive families such as:</td>
<td>• Activities to support pre and post-adoptive families.</td>
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| Family preservation services intended to prevent the removal of children and to help children in foster care to be reunited with their families such as: | • Case management  
• Day care  
• Family counseling  
• Follow-up care to children who have recently reunified after foster care placement  
• Prevention services |
| Family support services intended to increase the strength and stability of families such as: | • Center-based activities, such as drop-in centers or parent support groups  
• Counseling  
• Respite care for parents or other caregivers |
| Protective services intended to prevent or remedy the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children such as: | • Arrangements of alternative living  
• Assessment and evaluation of family circumstances  
• Case management  
• Emergency shelter  
• Family counseling |
| Reunification services intended to aid in the timely reunification of children removed from their home such as: | • Counseling  
• Crisis nurseries  
• Mental health treatment  
• Mentoring and support groups  
• Substance abuse treatment  
• Transportation to or from any services rendered  
• Visitation activities |

## Contact

If you have questions or need additional guidance, you may contact Alicia Allen, Bureau Chief of Fiscal Operations at [Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Alicia.Allen@jfs.ohio.gov).