



KIDS ARE WAITING
Fix Foster Care Now

NEWS RELEASE



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New Report Shows Progress in Child Protection

Advocates Applaud Progress, Call for Further Reforms

Columbus, OH: A report released today reveals a child protection system with fewer children in foster care and waiting for adoption. Advocates say that despite progress in overall safety and permanency outcomes for children, more must be done.

“Recent events have focused policymakers, the media and advocates on ensuring a safe foster care system for children removed from their homes,” says Crystal Ward Allen, Executive Director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. “But, fixing foster care is only half the job. We must be bold, and invest in safe, permanent families for our children.”

Based on data presented in this report, PCSAO makes the following recommendations:

- **Increase the state investment for child protection from the current 10% of the overall cost.** At present, Ohio ranks 49th in terms of its proportional contribution. Furthermore, Ohio must continue to build on the successful Access to Better Care initiative.
- **Reform child welfare federal financing.** At present, it primarily supports out of home care, and provides little support to strengthen birth or relative families in order to avoid foster care, or shorten it by restoring a safe environment to get the child back home safely.
- **PCSAO also recommends proactive foster care reforms** such as enhanced matching of children with foster caregivers, increasing the available pool of safe foster caregivers, as well as ensuring proper licensing safeguards.

The 8th edition of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio’s Factbook features information about foster care, child abuse and neglect, poverty, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, community services and more.

The Factbook was released at 10 a.m. today at AARP Ohio office in Columbus. It is being distributed to all Ohio public child welfare agencies, the media, the Ohio General Assembly and other members of the community. An electronic version of the book is available at www.pcsao.org

PCSAO is a proactive coalition of public children services agencies that promotes child safety, family stability, and community strength through the development of sound public policy, program excellence, training, and technical assistance.

Call 614-224-5802 to schedule an interview with Crystal Allen.
Call 614-226-3116 to schedule an interview with Gayle Channing Tenenbaum.

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