



- Poverty, substance abuse, inadequate housing, teen pregnancy and the lack of educational success are critical factors in child abuse and neglect in Ohio. These same characteristics are major contributors to the chronic reliance on TANF.
- 80% of the children and families receiving services from Ohio's public child welfare agencies also receive financial assistance through TANF.
- Both Child Protection Services and Ohio Works First are working towards **similar ends**: family well-being, self-reliance and family stability with a **similar philosophical base**: maximize the power and reliance on community-based economic and social services development, and support communities in solving local problems.
- Family-centered, neighborhood-based Child Protection Services is an important service delivery strategy - it assists families in reaching stability, self-sufficiency and improved family well-being. How? By working with neighborhoods the child protection services system seeks to partner with families, foster families, local service providers and community leaders to address problems and issues contributing to child abuse and neglect



WHAT DO
FAMILY CENTERED, NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED
CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES [CPS]



AND OHIO WORKS FIRST [OWF]
HAVE IN COMMON?

- Poverty, substance abuse, inadequate housing, teen pregnancy and the lack of educational success are critical factors in child abuse and neglect in Ohio. These same characteristics are major contributors to the chronic reliance on TANF.
- Approximately 80% of the children and families receiving services from Ohio's public child welfare agencies also receive financial assistance through TANF.
- Both Child Protection Services and Ohio Works First are working towards **similar ends**: family well-being, self-reliance and family stability with a **similar philosophical base**: maximize the power and reliance on community-based economic and social services development, and support communities in solving local problems.
- Family-centered, neighborhood-based Child Protection Services is an important service delivery strategy - it assists families in reaching stability, self-sufficiency and improved family well-being. How? By working with neighborhoods the child protection services system seeks to partner with families, foster families, local service providers and community leaders to address problems and issues contributing to child abuse and neglect.

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HOW AND WHY FAMILY-CENTERED, NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES SUPPORTS OHIO WORKS FIRST

Family-Centered, Neighborhood-Based Child Protection Services (FCNBcps) is a service delivery approach based on a philosophy that compliments and supports the same guiding principles as Ohio Works First (OWF). Considering that approximately 80% of the child welfare client population receives TANF benefits, it makes good sense to have a unified approach to serving this "like" population.

The CORE values of FCNBcps include the belief that vulnerable neighborhoods can and must be assisted by the public and private sector to maximize both their economic and social assets and to develop further for the general well-being of the citizens that reside within neighborhood boundaries in every community, in every county across our state.

FCNBcps like OWF:

- seeks to assist families in gaining long term autonomy and independence, taking responsibility for the stability of the family unit because there is a strong network of support (neighborhood-based foster care; neighborhood-based public and private service supports; economic development opportunities, etc.;
- acknowledges the critical importance of community involvement in supporting families in gaining and maintaining independence and autonomy;
- recognizes the necessity of integrating services so that a seamless neighborhood-based system of service delivery is available for children, vulnerable families with multiple needs and the foster families who care for the children and work with their families.
- requires ongoing evaluation of program outcomes and success measures.

The seven program outcomes for FCNBcps include:

1. A reduction in the number of children served in institutional and congregate care.
2. A shift of resources from congregate and institutional care to family foster care and family-centered services across all child and family serving systems.
3. A decrease in the lengths of stay in out-of-home placement.
4. An increase in the number of planned reunifications.
5. A decrease in the number of unplanned re-entries into care.
6. A decrease in the number of placement disruptions.
7. A reduction in the total number of children served away from their own families.



In other words = keep children safely in their neighborhoods, wrap **local** services around them (mental health, MRDD, Drug and Alcohol treatment services, educational remediation for children and adults, job preparation, child care, respite, etc.) and a neighbor helping neighbor approach to reducing the likelihood of abuse and neglect and by supporting the development of a local response when it does occur.

The six CORE principles of OWF include:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Personal responsibility | 4. Community Involvement |
| 2. Integration of Services | 5. Simplifying Service Delivery |
| 3. Problem Prevention | 6. Evaluation of Program Outcomes |

Using FCNBcps as the basis for working with children at-risk of abuse and neglect and their families, the county commissioners; County Dept. of Human Services; County Child Protection Service Agency; Child Support Enforcement; Law Enforcement; Health Care System; Education System; Private Business sector and other stakeholders can work together for safe children and stable, self-sufficient families.

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