



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

## About Us

### Franklin County Children Services is Protecting Children by Strengthening Families.

Our Mission is clear – Through collaboration with families and their communities, we advocate for the safety, permanency and well-being of each child we serve in a manner that honors family and culture.

#### We are committed to our Guiding Principles

- We are child welfare professionals
- We honor families
- We value every child
- We value partnerships



Children Services is the public agency mandated by federal and state law to ensure that our community's children are safe and well cared for. We provide protection, care and permanency for children who are abused, neglected or dependent. By being in partnership with more than 100 agencies and organizations, and with the help of over 700 employees, 500 kinship families, 200 adoptive families and 500 volunteers and mentors, the agency is committed to making sure that every child has a safe and stable home. Children Services social workers and support staff work to build stable and supportive living settings for young people, strengthen family life and assist parents in meeting their responsibilities to their children. FCCS receives more than 30,000 referrals annually through our 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline – (614) 229-7000.

#### Family Engagement

Each year, Franklin County Children Services helps more than 30,000 children and their families through prevention, protection, placement and permanency programs. The agency protects and cares for children in cooperation with parents whenever possible, by providing services to alleviate the problems that led the family to the attention of Children Services.

Children Services believes in the importance of family and strives to keep the entire family involved in solving the problems that brought them to the agency.

- **How We Respond to Families** – Intervention occurs only to ensure safety of children or to help the family. The goal is to keep children safely in the home, provide services for the family to prevent case opening or out-of-home placement.
- **How We Make Decisions with the Family** – Families are best served when they are truly engaged in both the identification of the issues that are challenging them and in the development of the service plan to help them. Throughout the life of a case, families are encouraged to provide input and to be a part of the team decision-making process.
- **How We Find Stability and Permanency for Children** – The agency is committed to the safety, permanency and well-being of each child we serve. Permanence can take many forms – kinship families, adoptive families, foster family contact and/or community connections can bring a lifetime of support for youth.



Additional services include:

- In-home counseling and community social and mental health services and day treatment
- Mentor and volunteer services
- Kinship – services to those taking in young family members
- Foster Care -placement of children in temporary foster homes
- Adoption – When parents or relatives are unable to care for the children, permanent and loving adoptive families are found.
- Emancipation services and life skills training
- Therapeutic arts



## Community Involvement

Franklin County Children Services protects and cares for children and their families through many community partnerships.

- Family-to-Family – A partnership with local settlement houses to help families in the community
- Local Resources – We contract with more than 100 organizations to help children and families.
- Speaking engagements and displays
- Special events and campaigns – Such as our Holiday Wish program, where we rely on community support to help us get holiday gifts for more than 6,000 of our children (agency funds cannot be used for this purpose).



More than half of Franklin County Children Services' funding comes from two, 10-year property tax levies; a 3.15 mill levy passed in 2009, and a 1.9 mill levy passed in 2014. Franklin County Children Services is grateful for this community support from central Ohio voters.

Children Services is governed by an 11-member volunteer board and is regulated by statutory mandates of the state and federal governments and regulations of the Ohio Department of Human Services. The agency is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children. Franklin County Children Services is one of only a few public county children services boards in Ohio and the nation to be accredited. This accreditation means that Children Services meets rigorous national standards regarding quality of services and sound management practice.



24-hour Child Abuse Hotline:  
(614) 229-7000

Adoption:  
(614) 341-6060

Volunteers & Mentors:  
(614) 275-2690

Communications:  
(614) 275-2523

Website:  
[childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov](http://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov)