



Family & Children First Council 2010 Report to the Community

Advancing the futures of our youth, families,
neighborhoods, and local government response
to new opportunities



EDWARD FITZGERALD
Cuyahoga County Executive



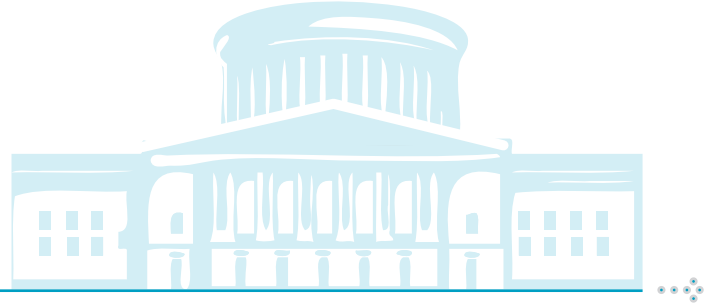


In the past year, the Family & Children First Council's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has emerged as a local and national leader in youth civic engagement. On this page, students from Cuyahoga County's YAC were selected to participate in the Forum for Youth Investment's convening in Washington, D.C., where youth from around the country met to discuss the formation of a National Youth Council. The YAC also led a nationwide conference call with America's Youth Councils on the same topic, and participated in a National Education Policy Panel and the Citizen Washington Focus project.

Also, the YAC took an active role in educating local voters on topics important to youth, developing and hosting two Candidate Forums for the Cuyahoga County Council and Executive elections. The forums brought youth and families face-to-face with candidates to promote dialog about education, jobs, public safety, and other youth concerns.

By Statute 121.37, each county in Ohio is required by law to have a Family & Children First Council collaboration, with long-term commitments to child well-being.

Our local leaders on Cuyahoga County's Family & Children First Council support the well-being of children from prenatal care until the transition to adulthood, with programs, partnerships and proven approaches.



Accountability to Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio

Our Mission

As the planning entity for Cuyahoga County, the Family & Children First Council promotes a collaborative system of care emphasizing coordination across a continuum of family-centered, neighborhood-based, culturally competent services to ensure the well-being of every child, and to preserve and strengthen families in their communities.

Our Areas of Accountability

Service Coordination

Each community needs a way for families and caring professionals to work together to keep children and teens healthy. Service Coordination is a process for child-serving systems and community providers to link families to necessary services or resources—as a team, with families in decision-making roles. It is a youth- and family-driven collaborative planning process that supports children and preserves families through the development of a coordinated cross-system plan inclusive of community services, supports, and resources. Family & Children First Council convenes the Service Coordination Team of professionals who, with the families, develop solutions for children who are involved or at risk for involvement in multiple public systems, like child welfare, mental health, developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, or the schools.

Child Well Being Plan

By state law, the Family & Children First Council develops and implements a Child Well Being Plan with the goal of increasing the well-being of young people in our area. Historically, our annual plan excels in inventing new approaches to achieve better results for families and children, most recently through youth development priorities through MyCom and Family and Civic Engagement.

Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Children's Trust Fund is Ohio's largest funding source for child abuse and neglect prevention in the state. Family & Children First Council is responsible for implementing strategies locally, through the Children's Trust Fund, to prevent or reduce the prevalence of child abuse and neglect by educating the public, strengthening families, or influencing policy issues.

Voting Membership

of the Family & Children First Council

Family & Children First Council Co-Chairs

Richard Werner
Director
Cuyahoga County
Health & Human Services

Billie Osborne-Fears
Executive Director
Starting Point

Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services
Board of Cuyahoga County

America's Promise

City/County Workforce Development

City of Cleveland, Mayor

Cleveland Police Department,
Bureau of Community Policing

Cleveland Department of Public Health

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland

Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Cuyahoga County Dept. of Children & Family Services

Cuyahoga County Employment and Family Services

Cuyahoga County Dept. of Senior & Adult Services

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court

Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs Association

Cuyahoga County Public Library

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority

Cuyahoga Support Enforcement Agency

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

Harvard Community Center

Help Me Grow

Ministerial Day Care/Headstart Association

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Ohio State University Extension

United Way of Greater Cleveland

Voices for Ohio's Children

Youth, Family and Community Representatives

Voting membership as of April 2011

From the Director

Dear Community Member,

We are living in a time when many parents and community leaders think that the next generation of kids will be worse off than their own generation. With societal structures like the financial system breaking down, conflict and pain among people here and across the world, and the particular challenges of poverty and poor health in the Greater Cleveland community, the American Dream of stable, prosperous futures for our children would seem to be under threat.

But need drives progress. Through the efforts of the Family & Children First Council, Cuyahoga County is advancing the futures of our youth, families, neighborhoods, and local government responsiveness to new opportunities.

The Family & Children First Council is the forum for new ideas on wellness for children and families in Cuyahoga County. We exist not just as a state mandate to coordinate services for families, but a way for local decision-makers within public, child-centered agencies to solve problems. That problem solving leads to new ideas and approaches that transform care for children.

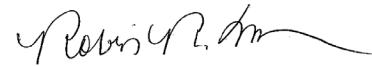
Cuyahoga County has become a leader state-wide by generating new ideas on how to reach children more effectively. Major child well-being initiatives have emerged from Council collaborations in the past ten years, including coordinated networks of services for both early childhood and school-age/adolescent youth, and for children who have the most complicated needs and who are involved or at risk for involvement in multiple public systems, like child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health.

We are architects and supporters of the innovative practices that improve life in Cuyahoga County. Local residents and partners have taken major new steps to ensure the health and well-being of children, and we are proud to support that work.

Join us in celebrating the positive changes that can happen for children when we all work together. Enjoy this Report to the Community, and as always, we invite you to visit us at:

fcfc.cuyahogacounty.us
mycom.net/youth

Best wishes,



Robin R. Martin
Program Director
Family & Children First Council

Ohio ranks 29 out of 50 in indicators for child well-being across the United States, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2010 Kids Count Data Book. Cuyahoga County, as Ohio's most populous county, could push that ranking higher. Through the actions and efforts of the Family & Children First Council, and all our child-serving partners, we can set an example to the state and nation that investing in proven strategies for children, adolescents and families is worthwhile. A higher ranking means children's lives saved from poverty, abuse, neglect and other problems, families thriving in healthy communities, and our future grown-ups ready to work and contribute.



The Family & Children First Council is a partnership of public and private entities that have a similar goal: prevent youth and families from needing our services in the first place.

Prevention is a key component of almost everything we do. We want families to be strong enough, and communities to be connected enough, never to experience the strife that leads to involvement in public systems like child welfare, juvenile justice, or substance abuse.

And when families *do* need us, they should receive coordinated services close to their home, that help them build supports that will sustain their well-being even after they are no longer enrolled in public systems.

We fund proven prevention programming and develop family leaders who devote their time and talents to helping communities prosper. Prevention is a smart, cost-saving approach that advances the health and futures of our families.

Advancing the futures of our youth & families

Family & Children First Council Programs and Efforts to Advance the Futures of Youth and Families

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of civic-minded parents focused on developing members' leadership skills to prepare them for relationship building with community leaders to advance the needs of children.

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) provides youth with opportunities to discuss important issues, serve as government representatives, help plan family services and activities, and promote youth development, in six areas: Advocacy, Education, Multi-media, Health/Fitness, Event Planning, and Serving Learning.

Service Coordination Team works within the public systems to ensure families are not experiencing system barriers. It is a team-based, family-driven navigation process to link residents to necessary services and resources.

Family Centered Services and Supports (FCSS) involves families in service planning and implementation, critical to successful treatment outcomes. FCSS funds are focused on maintaining children and youth in their own homes and communities by providing non-clinical, family-centered services and supports.

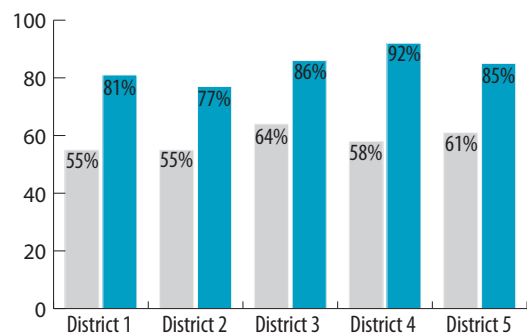
Families and Schools Together (FAST) is an early intervention and prevention program to empower and involve parents and to foster family development to help children succeed at home, in school, and in the community.

Wellness Initiative is a set of prevention strategies for reducing teen pregnancy through school and community-based education.

Data Highlight: Wellness Initiative

Our partners recognized a disturbing trend, and started prevention programs

Girls in Cuyahoga County are more than twice as likely than their peers nationwide to have a pregnancy between the ages of 15 and 19 (42/1,000 girls versus 85/1,000 local girls). The Cuyahoga County Board of Health's Wellness programming aims to prevent teen pregnancy through sexual education.



The Good News: The chart above shows improved test scores for area 5th graders who completed the *Healthy Body, Healthy You* curriculum in five school districts. In fact, overall test scores for 5th, 6th and 8th graders improved for all seven participating school districts after completing any of the four offered curriculums, meaning that students have a stronger knowledge base for healthy, appropriate choices about sexual conduct.





Families and Schools Together (FAST), a nationally proven prevention program supported through the Family & Children First Council, is based on brain research to maximize children's intellectual and emotional development, as well as resiliency.

Cuyahoga County earned a 2010 Science & Service Award from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for implementation of FAST. In addition to its high average (94%) of participant satisfaction, our FAST program was recognized for our outreach efforts in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and for bilingual programming.

FAST uses weekly group sessions set within their child's school to achieve its four goals:

- Enhance family functioning
- Prevent children from failing in school
- Prevent substance abuse by the child and other family members
- Reduce the stress that parents and children feel in daily life situations

Data from 2002–2008 show positive change for families in all goals. In 2010, 191 families from five local school districts graduated from FAST.

On this page: Brothers from a FAST program in Parma.

Opposite page: Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) mentor and member.

Residents want their neighborhoods to be places people choose to live, with a vibrant, healthy environment and opportunities for growth. Now, many residents are realizing that they can propel neighborhood progress by supporting their youngest citizens.

Families choose to live, contribute to and stay in neighborhoods that value them, and have quality services for every-age member of the family. The Family & Children First Council and partners in the MyCom youth network did an extensive assessment of what neighborhoods say they need to thrive, and developed a plan of proven strategies to reach that ideal. The MyCom neighborhoods fully implemented their action plans in 2010—and the Family & Children First Council has found a way to take that energy and other resources to a wider county population.

In partnership with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, the Family and Civic Engagement (FCE) project will help expand our youth development principles into seven school districts: Cleveland, Parma, Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights/University Heights, Bedford, Maple Heights and Warrensville Heights.

Advancing the futures of our neighborhoods

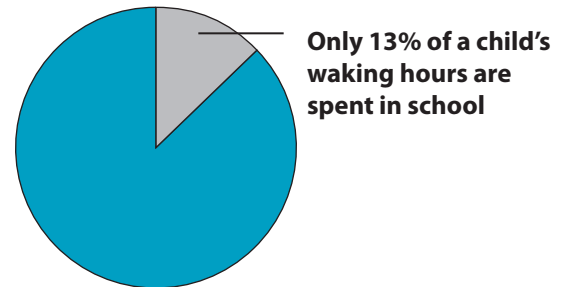
Family & Children First Council Programs and Efforts to Advance the Futures of Neighborhoods

MyCom, short for My Commitment, My Community, is a network of more than 250 youth, resident, and civic groups, aligned to provide increased numbers of enriching opportunities for the students of Greater Cleveland, and support neighborhood progress through youth. MyCom strengthens the resources in our neighborhoods in six key areas: youth engagement, youth employment, transitions (like the change from middle school to high school or other difficult transitions in a child's life), neighborhood engagement, out-of-school time, and advocacy. There are eight pilot neighborhoods including: Central, Cudell, Mt. Pleasant, Parma, St. Clair-Superior, Shaker Heights, Slavic Village, and West Park.

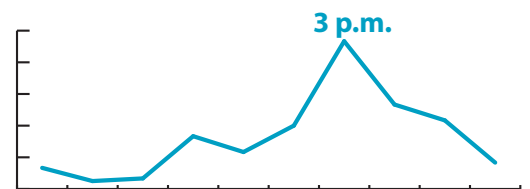
Family and Civic Engagement (FCE) is a collaboration among schools, families, and partners to develop healthy communities that lead to the academic success, safety, and well-being of youth to enable them to transition into productive and responsible citizens. Six local school districts, plus four specific neighborhoods within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, have partnered with Family & Children First Council, submitting five-year plans that prioritize school-family-community partnerships, creating a shared vision and responsibility for the education and well-being of local students. Cuyahoga County's goals for FCE are to increase awareness of social agencies, dissolve silos between education and agencies, enhance coordination of services and programs to address non-academic and academic needs, and to expand partnerships.



Data Highlight: After-school programs



By age 18, a child will have spent only 13% of their waking hours in school. A child develops many skills for life and citizenship in the other 87% of their time, making quality programs during these hours essential. (Ohio Afterschool Network, The Ohio State University)



3–6 p.m. is prime time for juvenile crime

The hourly percentage of serious violent crime committed by juveniles on school days is highest from 3 to 6 p.m.—after the school bell rings but before parents are in the home.

(Fight Crime: Invest in Kids)



We expand after-school and summer opportunities for youth, to keep streets safe and children learning. Last year, we made an additional 5,514 slots available for neighborhood youth.



After-school and summer opportunities

for youth, a major strategy of the Family & Children First Council's work to advance the health of communities, have been called "the new neighborhood" because of their positive impact on multiple sectors of society.

According to *Critical Hours: Afterschool Programs and Educational Success*, a report commissioned by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation: "Young people aren't the only ones to benefit from quality afterschool programs; positive effects extend to families, employers and communities as well. Working parents who know their children are in a safe, secure place supervised by adults during out-of-school time are able to be more productive, work more hours, and move into better jobs. Lower juvenile crime rates mean lower police protection and security costs. The link between participation in out-of-school time programs and better academic performance can also result in fewer grade retentions, which translates into higher graduation rates and lower costs for special needs services."

On this page: A student in a local performance arts summer curriculum practices her lines.

Opposite page: A brother and sister from a MyCom neighborhood have participated in afterschool programs.

When opportunity knocks, our community needs to be prepared. The Family & Children First Council plays a vital role in preparing our community to take advantage of new funding opportunities.

Grants from federal, state, and private sources often require two things that the Family & Children First Council is in a distinct position to offer: cross-system involvement, and youth and family voice.

The Family & Children First Council is uniquely situated by statute to play a central role in accepting and facilitating new grant opportunities for our community. We offer a structured cross-system venue for collaboration across public systems and private partners, and include youth and parents in the decision-making process, two elements that are required by most new grant opportunities.

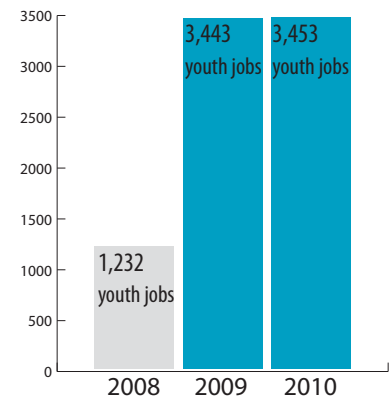
Advancing responsiveness of local government to new funding

A look at the Voting Membership of the Family & Children First Council proves it—all the right decision-makers for children and families are already sitting at our table, from the schools, libraries, leaders of health and human service agencies, elected officials, law enforcement, concerned residents, to parents and youth themselves. That's why the Family & Children First Council is known as the genesis of major initiatives for child well-being in Cuyahoga County.

Our efforts are sustained over the life of a child. For example, the babies who received the first services from Invest in Children, a public-private partnership that emerged from Family & Children First Council collaborations, are now teenagers.

Also, the Cuyahoga Tapestry System of Care emerged when members of the Family & Children First Council recognized a need for coordinated services for children with the most complicated behavioral and emotional difficulties—and pursued and won a federal grant from the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Data Highlight: Employment



Cuyahoga County puts citizens to work—because we were ready for new dollars

Cuyahoga County seized the opportunity to put citizens to work when federal stimulus dollars became available. Because of the collaboration in place for the MyCom youth network, the county received federal dollars to create additional subsidized summer jobs for youth through our partner, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.). In total, 3,443 youth jobs were developed in 2009, and we were able to keep that going in 2010 by supporting a total of 3,453 employment positions for youth.

By state law, we already have all the right decision-makers for children and families sitting around the table. When chances for new funding arise, we can work fast, together, to pursue new dollars for Cuyahoga County.



Public-private partnerships, like the MyCom youth network managed by the Family & Children First Council, also make our community more responsive to funding opportunities.

In 2010, MyCom attracted its first national funder, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as one of only 19 areas nationwide to win the Knight Community Information Challenge. The resulting \$69,000 grant supports the MyMedia project.

MyMedia is training youth from Greater Cleveland's middle and high schools to report on health and safety needs from their own neighborhoods, and promotes increased youth voice in our area's public conversation.

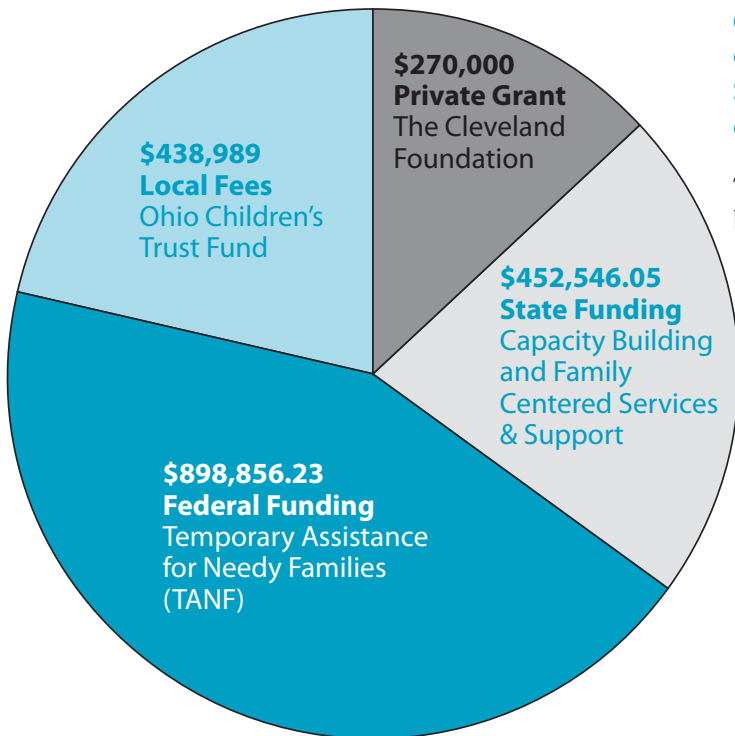
The project received an extra boost when WVIZ/PBS IdeaStream partnered with MyMedia to receive a \$25,000 Project VoiceScape grant from the PBS and Adobe Foundations, winning the chance for top storytellers from the MyMedia project to work with IdeaStream staff to develop high-quality multi-media projects to submit to a National Call for Entries managed by Point of View (POV).

On this page: Students from MyCom's MyMedia youth reporter training project test their video recorder while in class at the Idea Center in downtown Cleveland.

Statement of Financial Health

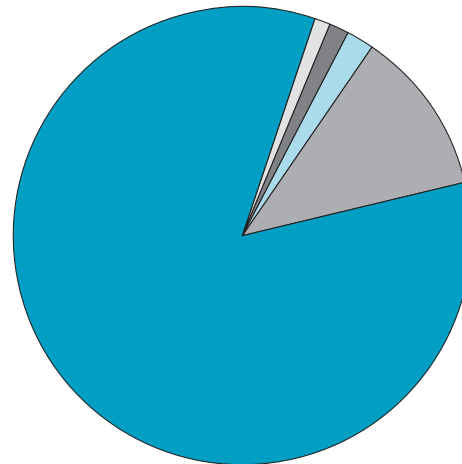
The Family & Children First Council has multiple funding streams, all focused on maximizing care for children and families.

Our primary funding is from federal, state, and local sources, as well as a private grant and a public-private partnership that leverages the money the county invests to expand and enhance services.



68% of the Family & Children First Council's budget in 2010, or \$4,304,743.95, came from the local Health and Human Services Levies, for which we thank the supportive residents of Cuyahoga County.

The remaining funding, represented at left, was generously provided by a private grant, plus federal, state and local fees.



Funds by Budget Category

- 84%: Contractual Services
- 12%: Personnel Expenses
- 2%: Controlled Services
- 1%: Client Services
- 1%: Operating Expenses

Contractual Services by Program

MyCom: My Commitment, My Community.....	\$1,953,513.69
Family & Civic Engagement (FCE).....	\$1,501,880.36
Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF).....	\$438,989.00
Families and Schools Together (FAST).....	\$300,000.00
Wellness.....	\$598,856.23
Family Centered Services & Support (FCSS).....	\$436,289.05
Youth Services.....	\$90,954.03
Evaluation and Training.....	\$22,391.87

FUNDING PARTNERS IN 2010

MYCOM, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Bruening Foundation
Charter One Bank Foundation
City of Cleveland
Cuyahoga County
 Department of Workforce
 Development
 Family & Children First Council
John S. and James L. Knight
 Foundation
KeyBank Foundation
Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland
Sisters of Charity Foundation
 of Cleveland
The Cleveland Foundation
Third Federal Foundation
United Way John K. Mott Youth Fund

FEDERAL

U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services, Administration
for Children & Families

STATE

Ohio Children's Trust Fund
Ohio Department of
Mental Health

LOCAL

Cuyahoga County



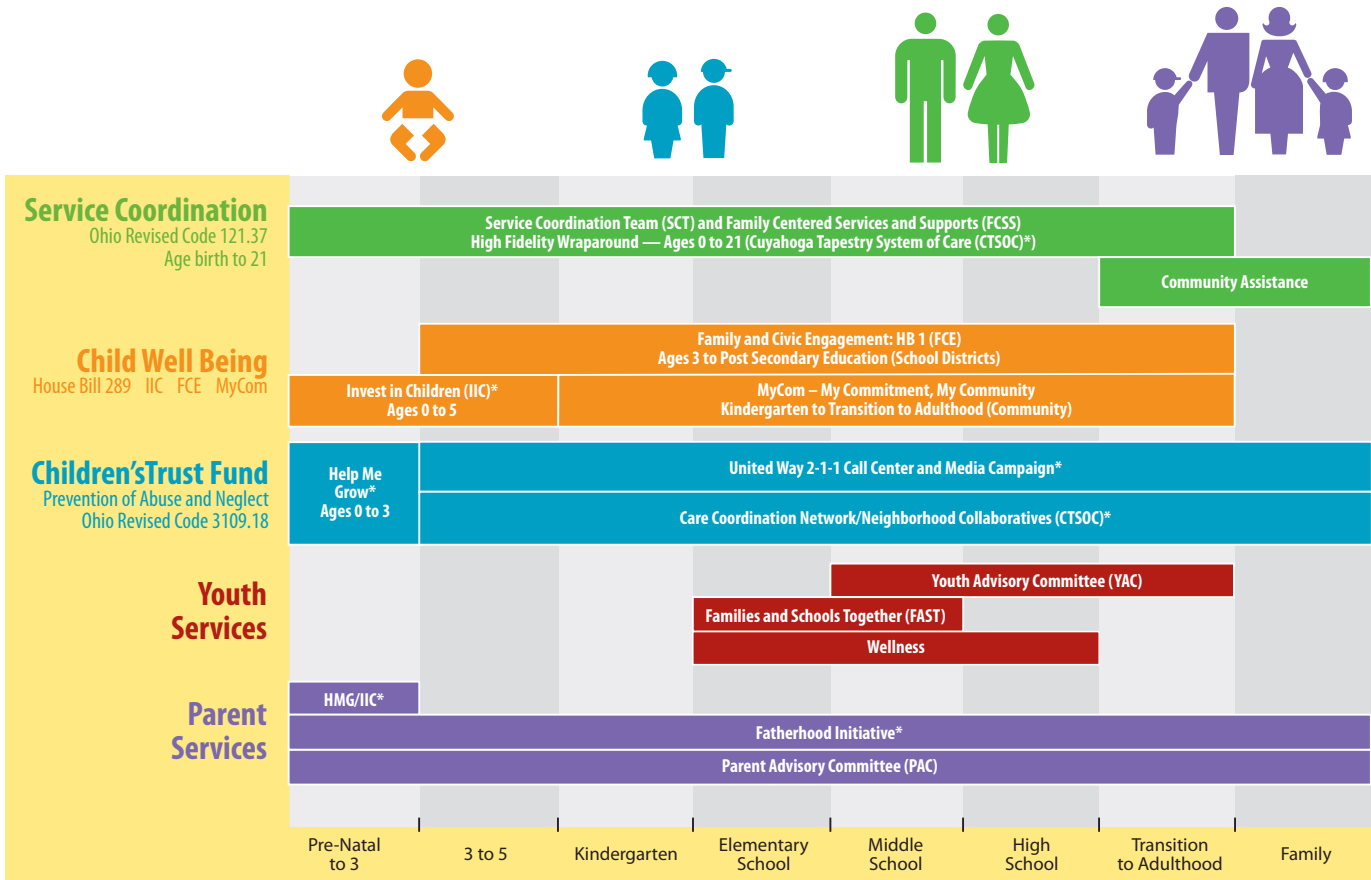
On this page: Members of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) of Cuyahoga County.

Our Collaborations

Because of its unique position in our county as a convener and planner for children’s health and well-being, the Family & Children First Council is a valuable partner to various community stakeholders. These partnerships are sustained for the good of children, adolescents, and their parents throughout Cuyahoga County.

The diagram below shows a clear picture of the continuum of care for families through the service areas of Cuyahoga County’s Family & Children First Council. These are the collaborations that directly serve the needs of our youngest residents.

Family & Children First Council Continuum of Care



* Denotes programs/projects that are part of the continuum but not part of the FCFC office.



On this page: Siblings from a Family & Children First Council supported program race into the future.



Special thanks to these project partners, who facilitate many of our programs for Cuyahoga County's youth:

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health
Services Board of Cuyahoga County

Cleveland Public Library

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Cuyahoga Tapestry System of Care

Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County

Help Me Grow

Kent State University

Neighborhood Collaboratives

Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI)

Ohio State University Extension, Cuyahoga County

Partnership for a Safer Cleveland

Starting Point

United Way 2-1-1 First Call for Help

Voices for Ohio's Children

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)

