



FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAMILY, ADULT AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

831 College Ave. Lancaster, Ohio 43130, www.facfc.org

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Real strength has to do with helping others.

-Mr. Fred Rogers

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY
FAMILY, ADULT AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING & AWARD PRESENTATIONS
NOVEMBER 18, 2021, 8:30 A.M.**



Welcome and Introductions

Melissa Newman, FACFC Parent Representative
FACFC President

Business Meeting

Nominating Committee Report
Election of Officers for 2022

- Heather O'Keefe, Deputy Director of Protective Services, President
- Kim Devitt, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Early Childhood Programs Director, Vice President

FACFC Council Annual Report & 2021 Firefly Award Presentations

Presentation: Overcoming Adversity by Building Resilience, Carol Taylor, TEDx Yearling Road

Building capacity in providing trauma-informed care has been a priority of our community advanced by our BTIS Initiative. This TED talk by Carol Taylor illustrates how adverse childhood experiences change how the brain sees and responds to the world. Building resilience through loving, nurturing, safe relationships is the key to helping people succeed. Carol shares how people in her life have modeled building resilience. As the Program Supervisor for Coaching and Training at Franklin County Family and Children First Council located in Columbus, Ohio, she is focused on utilizing work teams and community partners to develop sustainable solutions.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAMILY, ADULT AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL MISSION

The Council creates and facilitates a coordinated system of services that responds to the strengths and needs of our community. It is a partnership of public and private non-profit child and family-serving agencies and organizations committed to improving the well-being of children and families. The Council strives to:

- Streamline and coordinate government services for families seeking help for their children;
- Develop and implement a service coordination mechanism to prioritize services and fill gaps where possible;
- Participate in comprehensive and coordinated interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays;
- Monitor progress toward achieving results;
- Ensure input from families and from a broad spectrum of the community;
- Build community capacity.

The Council is steered by its Executive Committee, which includes representation from: parents, Board of County Commissioners, Mayor of the City of Lancaster, Educational Service Center, Pickerington Schools, Lancaster City Schools, New Horizons Mental Health, Fairfield County Board of DD, Job and Family Services, Protective Services, Fairfield Community Health Center, Early Childhood Programs of Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency, United Way, Fairfield County 2-1-1, Fairfield Health Department, ADAMH Board and Juvenile Court. The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners is the FACFC's administrative agent.

MARY GOOD HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD 2021



The 19th annual Mary Good Humanitarian Award was awarded to **Heather Pool**, teacher for Lancaster City Preschools. Heather was nominated by Brenda Zeiders and Sandra Herzog from Lancaster City Schools who were mentored by Mary Good early in their careers. The presentation was featured during United Way's Awards Recognition Event on April 1.

Heather's dedication to families and children was commended by parents, grandparents, co-workers, and the former Associate Professor for Early Childhood Education at Ohio University Lancaster.

As noted in the nomination: "Heather is not only a hard worker when it comes to planning special events for children in our community, but she is also a teacher who has a reputation that is impeccable. She is a champion for every child who walks through the preschool doors...No matter what the needs of the child may be, she works to make his or her preschool experience successful by skillfully developing a positive rapport with both the child and the family."

The FACF Council created the award as a tribute to Mary Good for her compassion and service to the community on behalf of children and families. Mary Good was a teacher with the Lancaster City Schools, Christian educator at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, park leader with the United Way Summer Park program in Pleasantville, Peace School Coordinator, social worker and scout leader. This award encourages and recognizes others who emulate Mary Good's zest for helping children and families.

MARY GOOD HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

2003	Keith Tremblay	2013	Michael Orlando
2004	Debby Rockwood	2014	Diana Williams
2005	Jenny Ruff	2015	Andy Phillips
2006	Carol Wagner	2016	Melodi Slater
2007	Cyndi Lavere	2017	Holly Bennett
2008	Amanda Wilkins	2018	Johanna Pearce
2009	Phil Mackie	2019	Kevin Boyer
2010	Jack Blankenship	2020	Jennifer Beckley-Watson
2011	T. Ryan Snyder	2021	Heather Pool
2012	Cathy Crawford		



Left, Brenda Zeiders; center, Heather Pool; right, Sandra Herzog.

MULTI-SYSTEM YOUTH PROGRAM—

CINDI WEST, MSY COORDINATOR

LAURIE CLARK, MSY PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The Multi-System Youth (MSY) program provides the service coordination system for multi-need youth that organizes agencies, people and services to support the individual needs of children and families. With the family's involvement, a coordinated service plan is formulated to increase efficiency and responsiveness to each family's unique needs. Service Coordination provides a broad and effective perspective by bringing unites the efforts of all case managers and others important to family success. Fairfield County pools its resources and efforts to provide service coordination, as well as a broad range of support and evidence-based interventions.

Reducing out of home placements for high-need youths is one of the goals of this program. During FY 2021, 171 youth were served. Youth in out-of-home placement represented 7.6% of those served. Most youths exiting service coordination achieved all of the goals of their service plan.

Multi-System Youth Committee Structure

- Interdisciplinary Team for youth from birth up to age 21
- Executive Cluster for out-of-home placements and overall strategies

Multi-System Youth Services Pooled Funding Partners

- ADAMH
- Juvenile Court
- Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Fairfield County Job and Family Services
- Board of County Commissioners

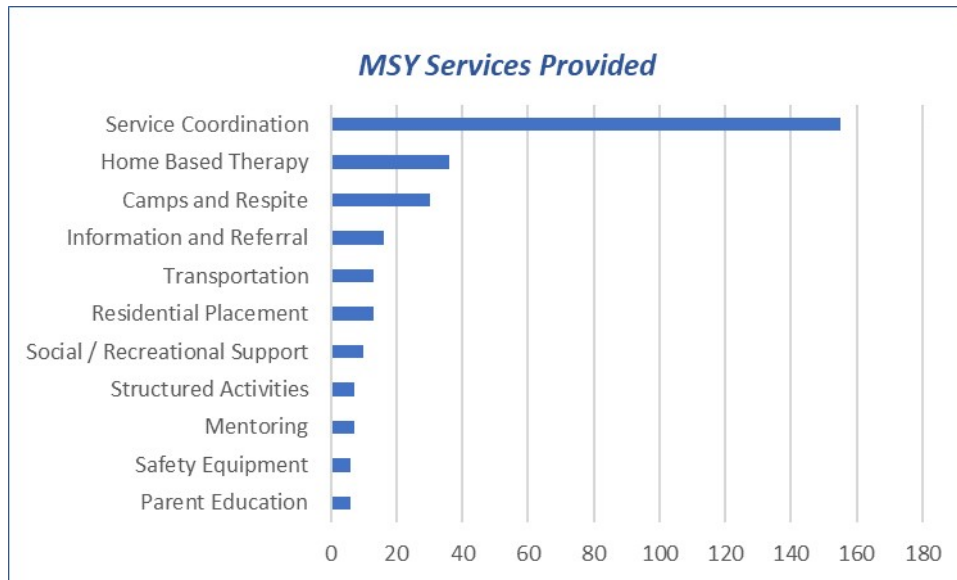
MSY Program Services Include Social & Recreational Support

Expressive arts therapy--the purposeful application of art, music, dance/movement, dramatic enactment, creative writing, and imaginative play--is a non-verbal way of self-expression of feelings and perceptions. More importantly, they are action-oriented and tap implicit, embodied experiences of trauma that can defy expression through verbal therapy or logic.

— Cathy A. Malchiodi, *Trauma and Expressive Arts Therapy: Brain, Body, and Imagination in the Healing Process*

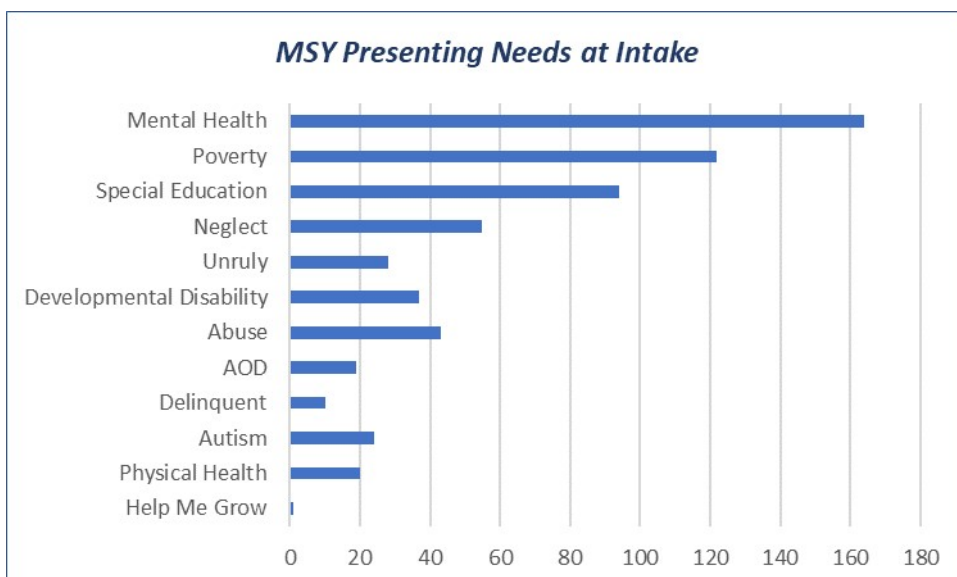
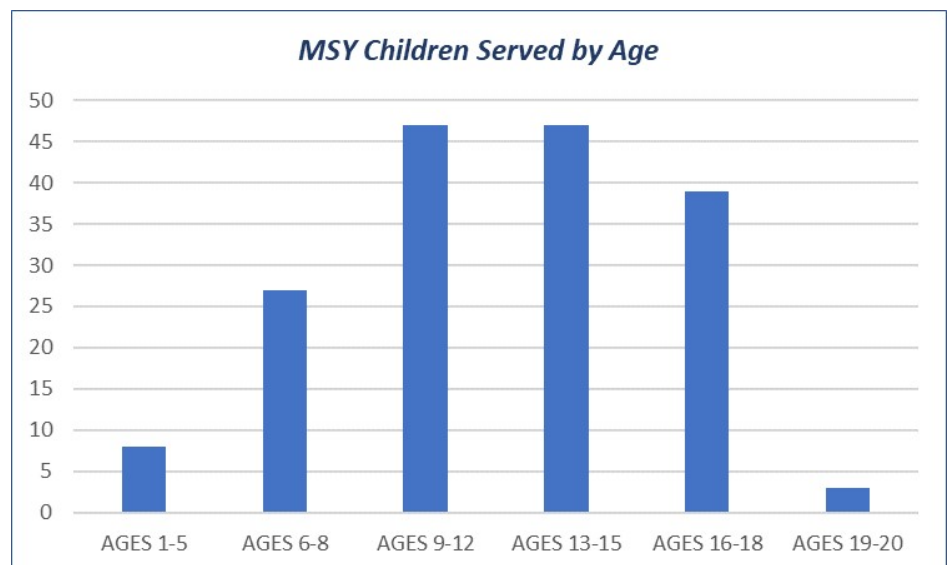


SFY 2021 MSY PROGRAM DATA SNAPSHOTS



Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.

~Mr. Fred Rogers



Sometimes real superheroes live in the hearts of small children fighting big battles.

~ Anonymous

HELP ME GROW EARLY INTERVENTION—TIFFANY WILSON, CONTRACT MANAGER

Help Me Grow Early Intervention (EI) serves children birth to three years of age who may have developmental delays and disabilities by providing assessments, evaluations, and coordinated services. Early Intervention program implementation partners are Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency for service coordination and the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities for provision of services. We applaud the team for developing and implementing virtual processes to sustain services in the pandemic. The new virtual model meets the individualized needs of each family while protecting the health and safety of everyone involved.

EI is an evidenced-based program that believes children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. Every family in the EI program has a service coordinator and service providers. An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed collaboratively. The team works in the child's natural environment, using the family's existing supports and resources to enhance the child's learning and development. Service Coordinators guide families through every aspect of the EI process, from program entry until the child transitions out of the program by age three.

In SFY 21, 363 children were served. Most of the 194 children exiting the program transitioned successfully to preschool. Reports indicate that all children exiting demonstrated substantial progress with social and emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and taking action to meet needs.

Percentage of children that substantially Improved Social-Emotional skills		Percentage of children that substantially improved in Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills		Percentage of children that substantially improved in Taking Appropriate Action to Meet Needs	
Fairfield	State of Ohio	Fairfield	State of Ohio	Fairfield	State of Ohio
85.48%	52.18%	88.80%	59.21%	92.54%	62.28%
Percentage of children that left the program at age expectation in Social Emotional		Percentage of children that left the program at age expectation in Acquiring and Using Knowledge skills		Percentage of children that left the program at age expectation in Taking Appropriate Action to Meet Needs.	
Fairfield	State of Ohio	Fairfield	State of Ohio	Fairfield	State of Ohio
54.07%	54.75%	49.63%	45.35%	48.15%	48.51%

Eligibility Reason	#	%	Exit Reason	#	%
One or More Substantial Delay(s)	158	44%	Reached age 3	110	57%
One or More Mild Delay(s)	54	15%	No longer eligible prior to age 3	31	16%
Informed Clinical Opinion	86	24%	Withdrawn by parent before age 3	28	14%
Eligible Diagnosis on DODD List	65	18%	Lost Contact	12	6%
Other Diagnosis on approved Form	0	0%	Moved out of Fairfield County	13	7%
SFY21 Cumulative Count	363		Total Exits	194	

FAIRFIELD COUNTY EI TEAM

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

Kim Devitt, Director
 Margie Partridge, Supervisor
 Mindy VanBibber, Supervisor
 Erin Borrow, Service Coordinator
 Shelly Wright, Service Coordinator
 Vicki Smith, Intake Specialist

Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council

Tiffany Wilson, Contract Manager

Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Jenna Dodson, Early Intervention Supervisor
 Letisha West, Developmental Specialist
 Melissa Sheerer, Developmental Specialist
 Lindsay Lee, Developmental Specialist
 Lindsay Morrison, Developmental Specialist
 Erica Neal, Developmental Specialist
 Karen Wideman, Speech Language Pathologist
 Victoria Repko, Speech Language Pathologist
 Judith Jones, Physical Therapist
 John Wagner, Physical Therapist
 Michelle Snyder, Occupational Therapist

PARENT EDUCATION COOPERATIVE— BRANDY HEETER, COORDINATOR

Parent education curriculums of the FACFC include: The First Five Years, Active Parenting, Active Parenting for Stepfamilies, Loving Solutions, Parent Project, Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) Level 3 and Triple P Level 4, and Positive Parenting Primary Care. During FY 21, 169 parents completed one of the curriculums offered, most of which involve a commitment to complete multiple sessions.

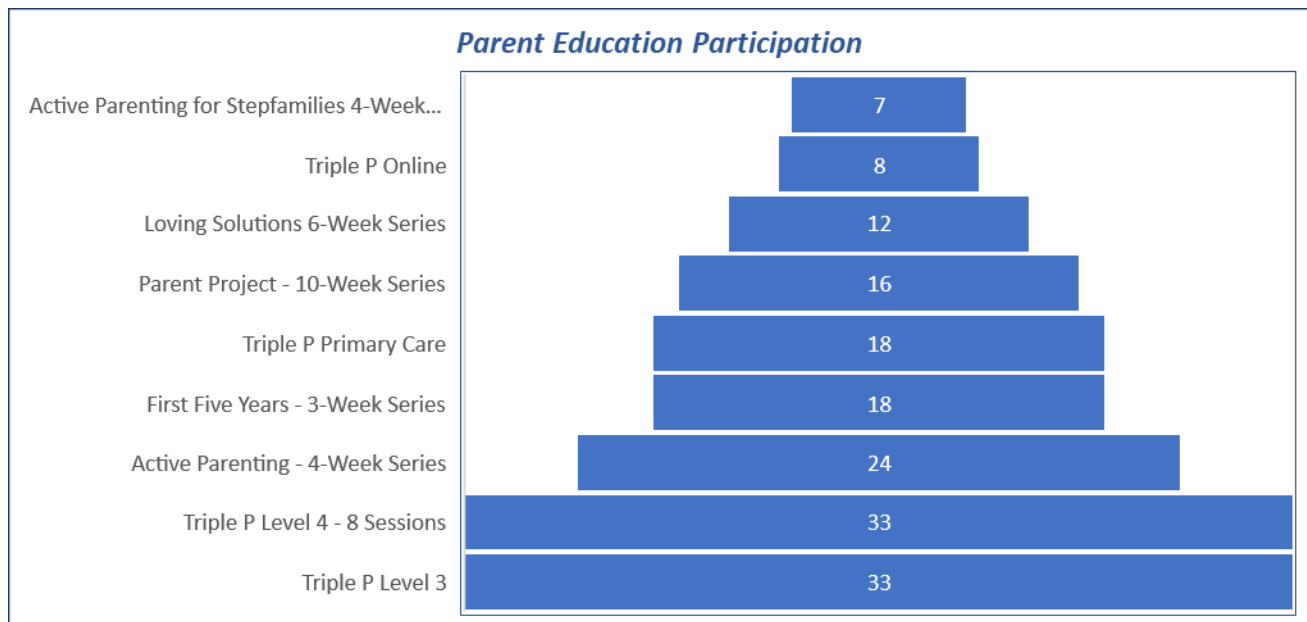
These are made possible through the support of many partners, including the Fairfield County ADAMH Board, Lancaster Community Development Department, Fairfield County CDBG grant, Fairfield County Foundation, and South Central Power Foundation. Nationwide Children’s Hospital sponsors Power of Positive Parenting—”Triple P” — discussion groups and brief interventions.



To meet families’ needs of parenting support during the pandemic, virtual methods of service delivery were implemented to provide parent education classes and discussion groups through live-virtual and web-based platforms.

The Fairfield County Parent Education Cooperative meets quarterly to review availability, optimal scheduling, and gaps in population-specific education. This is an important advisory group to inform the direction of our parenting support activities in our community. We value and appreciate their willingness to offer their advice and expertise.

The development and distribution of the quarterly Family Resource Calendar continued to be a priority for 2021. The resource guide is available on the Council’s website, and 1,500 copies are printed each quarter and distributed throughout Fairfield County.



SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION—BRANDY HEETER, COORDINATOR

The Safe Communities Coalition promotes safe driving practices and creates awareness of behaviors that prevent traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Safe Communities Coalition initiatives are made possible through a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office and in-kind support from local community partners.

Despite the unforeseeable challenges presented by the pandemic, the Safe Communities Coalition increased its membership and was able to reach more people than ever through virtual technology. Primary traffic safety messages promoted by the Coalition are: *Click It or Ticket*, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, *Don't Text and Drive*, and *Watch Out for Motorcycles*.

The volunteerism of community members and law enforcement makes the Safe Communities Coalition successful in promoting traffic safety in Fairfield County.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Building Trauma Informed Systems (BTIS)

Driven by the collective understanding of the effect of child maltreatment and the ways that multiple systems can utilize brain research and best practice, this work group reviews the research and literature, learns from those in the field who are using the concepts of trauma-informed care and proposing both macro-educational opportunities as well as agency-to-agency collaborations to work together for the best outcomes for children. BTIS is chaired by Kim Devitt, Director of Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Early Childhood Programs.

Fairfield County Perinatal Leadership Group

Chaired by Stephanie Fyffe, Director of Nursing at the Fairfield Department of Health, and facilitated by Tiffany Wilson of the FACFC, the Perinatal Leadership Group is addressing the issue of access to prenatal care for pregnant women who are actively using substances and the potential effects on infants. Efforts this year focused on compliance with the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act for Plans of Safe Care for substance-exposed and substance-affected infants.

Fairfield County Housing Coalition

The Fairfield County Housing Coalition provides a unified approach toward sustaining and improving local housing services for the homeless and low-income population. The Coalition has a diverse membership including service providers and community leaders that successfully collaborate in strategic planning to strengthen the system of care that serves the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The Coalition conducts the Homeless Point-In-Time Count and fair housing training every year. Lynda Berge Disser, Executive Director of the Lancaster Community Development Department, serves as Chair; Randall Hunt, Deputy Director/Housing Director for Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency, serves as Vice Chair.

Fairfield County Transportation Coalition

The Fairfield County Transportation Coalition convenes community members and transportation services providers to identify gaps and needs in services, and advocates for the provision of safe, affordable and accessible transportation. The Coalition also provides leadership in the development of the county's coordinated transportation plan. Chasilyn Carter, Director of Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit, serves as President; Dr. Ed Payne, Executive Director & CEO of the Fairfield Center for disabilities & Cerebral Palsy, serves as Vice President and Secretary.

Older Adult Network

The Older Adult Network is a collaboration among agencies, businesses, and organizations who serve older adults and their families in the community. Membership in the OAN is open to anyone who provides resources and services for the aging population and advocates for older adults. Co-Chairs are Linda McDonald & Nichole Speakman; Secretary is Kim Shook.

2021 Firefly Awards

This award symbolizes special people and organizations in our community that shine a special light from within – like the firefly – a light that flickers in the darkness that helps guide the way for others on their journey.



Help Me Grow Early Intervention Firefly
Cindy Bauers, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Early Childhood Programs Service Coordinator



Parent Education Firefly
Resa Tobin, Community Educator,
Fairfield Medical Center



Multi-System Youth Firefly
Tiffany Wade, Special Education Supervisor,
Fairfield Union Local School District



Safe Communities Coalition Firefly
Officer Chuck Sims, Lancaster Police Department

FAMILY, ADULT & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Fairfield County FAF Council integrates public and private support to achieve the greatest impact with financial and human resources. Our partners provide resources as well as collaboration in the structure and design of the FAF Council's services to the community.

Local Government Partnerships

- ADAMH Board
- Board of Commissioners
- Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Job and Family Services
- Juvenile Court
- Lancaster Community Development Department
- Fairfield County Regional Planning

Local Philanthropic Partnerships

- Fairfield County Foundation
- South Central Power Foundation
- First United Methodist Church

State of Ohio & Other Partnerships

- Family and Children First
- Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Job and Family Services
- Traffic Safety Office
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Ohio University-Lancaster

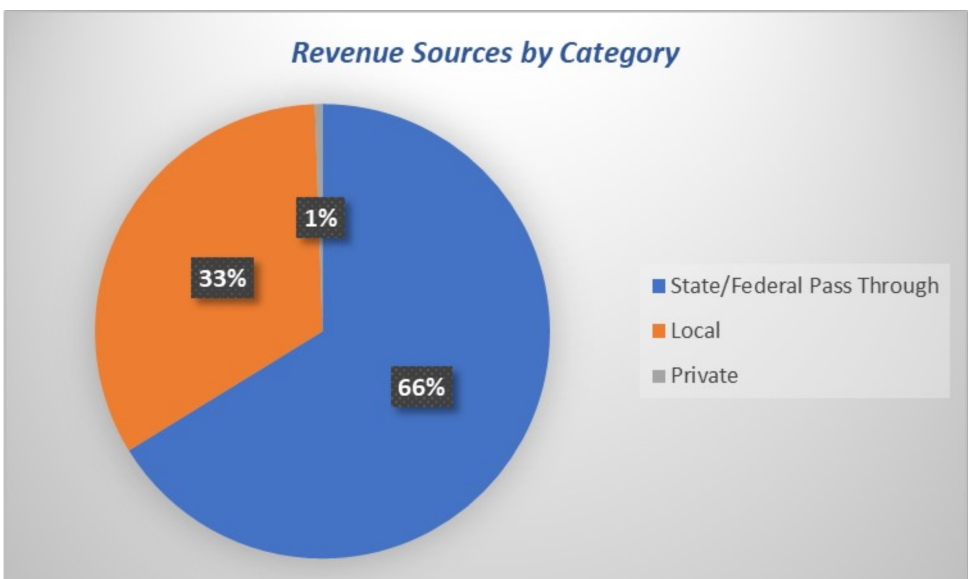
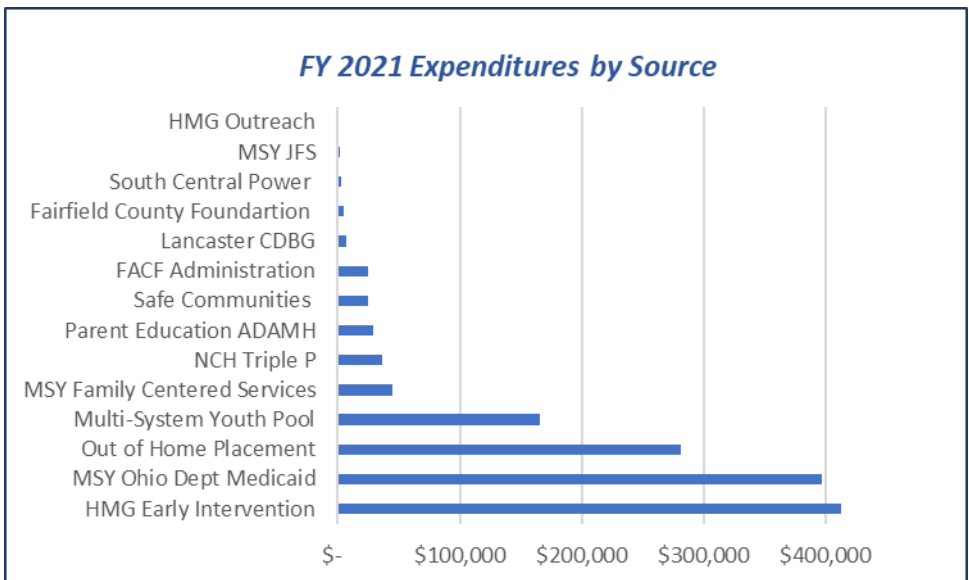
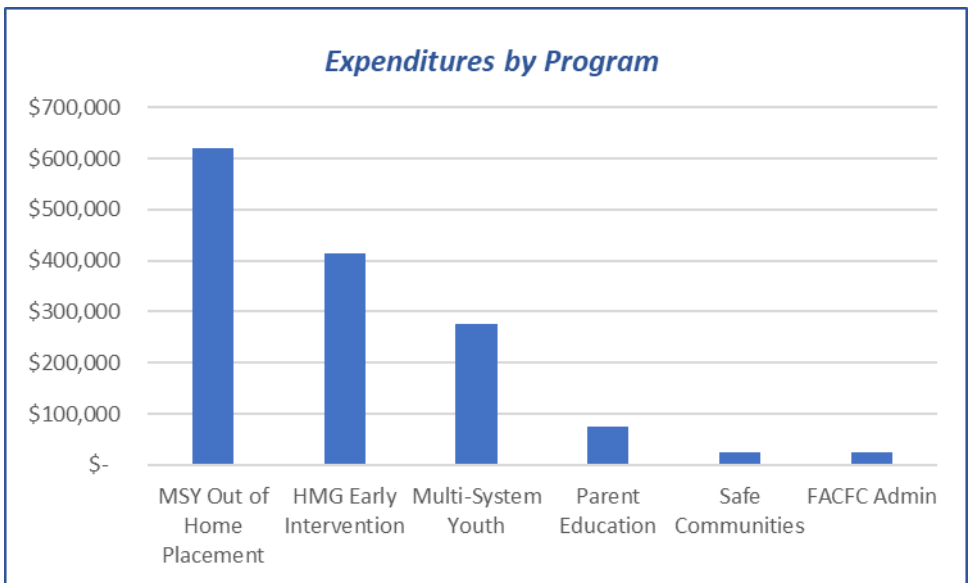
Multi-System Youth Services Pooled Funding Partnerships

Services provided to youth with multi-system needs in our community are largely made possible through local partners that work collaboratively and pool funding and other resources.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid provided the opportunity for Councils to apply on a family-by-family basis to fund services to avoid custody relinquishment.

Committee Funds

The FAF Council administers funds on behalf of the Older Adult Network, Children's Committee, and Sharing Hope.



Note: Charts reflect SFY 21 expenditures—July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021.

2022 FAIRFIELD COUNTY FACF COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carrie Woody	United Way CEO
Corey Clark	Job and Family Services Director
David Levacy	Fairfield County Commissioner
David Scheffler	Lancaster City Mayor
Heather O'Keefe	Deputy Director of Protective Services
Jeannette Curtis	Fairfield County 2-1-1 Executive Director
Joe Ebel	Fairfield County Health Department Health Commissioner
John Pekar	Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent
Dr. Kathy Ely & Dr. Chris Briggs	Pickerington Local School District
Kim Devitt	Community Action-Early Childhood Programs Director
Lisa Evangelista	Fairfield Community Health Center CEO
Dr. Marie Ward	Fairfield County Educational Service Center Superintendent
Melissa Newman	Parent Representative
Nathan Hale	Lancaster City Schools Superintendent
Phil Pack	New Horizons Mental Health CEO
Terre Vandervoort	Juvenile & Probate Court Judge

2021 Outgoing Executive Committee Members: Steve Wigton, former Lancaster City Schools Superintendent; Aundrea Cordle, Fairfield County Administrator; Scott Reed, former United Way CEO; Lynda Berge Disser, Lancaster Community Development Executive Director. Thank you for your service!

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FACFC STAFF

- Dumitru "Raz" Sabaiduc, Executive Director
- Brandy Heeter, Coordinator of Parent Education and Safe Communities
- Cindi West, Multi-System Youth Program Coordinator
- Laurie Clark, Multi-System Youth Program Assistant
- Tiffany Wilson, Help Me Grow Early Intervention Contract Manager and Perinatal Cluster Services Coordinator

Ohio University-Lancaster Interns

- Alyssa McNulty
- Shannon Davison



We extend thanks for the service of those who left FACF Council county service in 2021:

- Pam Redding, Parent Education Coordinator
- Kirsten Persinger, Safe Communities Coordinator
- Donna Fox-Moore, Executive Director

SHARED PLAN FY 2020 – 2022

Development of the Shared Plan is facilitated by the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council to help identify our community's shared priorities, outcomes, and strategies to increase the well-being of children and families. The complete plan is available online at www.facfc.org. Annually data indicators identified by the committee are reviewed to monitor progress toward achieving the desired outcomes.

Shared Community Priorities	Shared Outcomes
Prevent and reduce homelessness.	Families have access to safe, decent, affordable housing
-Increased Kindergarten readiness -Capacity to serve childcare needs and support for children with disabilities and special needs.	Children ages birth to 8 receive the support they need to succeed in school.
Complete continuum of care to meet the complex needs of families.	Families have access to care to enable their children with complex needs to be served in their homes and in their community.
- Prevent youth involvement in juvenile justice system -Reduce further penetration/recidivism for court-involved youth in the juvenile justice system -Reduce drug and alcohol use among youth.	Youth ages 9-21 will overcome barriers to successfully transition into adulthood and independence as productive members of the community.
Economic development and employment.	Families and youth seeking employment find and maintain employment to meet their financial needs
Children and families have access to care and resources to lead a healthy lifestyle.	Community Wellness

Fairfield County *Fostering the Future* Mural, 138 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, OH



2022 FACFC MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar and please join us. Go to www.facfc.org for location. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m.

Full Council Meetings

January 20
March 17
May 19
July 21
September 15
November 17

Executive Committee Meetings

February 18
April 15
June 17
August 19
October 21
December 16