

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging **KINSHIP CARE GUIDE**



Counties Served

Delaware
Fairfield
Fayette
Franklin
Licking
Madison
Pickaway
Union



When a child cannot live with his or her parents.

614-645-7250

800-589-7277

www.coaaa.org



**Your
Connection
to Care**

Updated July 2025

**This information is provided by the:
The National Family Caregiver Support Program.**

This is a nationally funded program operated in Central Ohio by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA). It offers caregiver workshops and funds services designed to assist caregivers on a short term basis. The services include: information and assistance, counseling, respite, and other supplemental services

Request a copy or download our other guides:

- Central Ohio Older Adults Resource Guide
- The Caregiver Toolbox
- Books, Videos and Websites for Caregivers
- Central Ohio Senior Housing & Home Repair Guide
- Central Ohio Long Term Care & Hospice Guide
- Central Ohio Private Homecare Guide
- Central Ohio Utility Guide
- Central Ohio Prescription Guide
- Central Ohio Transportation Guide
- Central Ohio Support Group Guide
- Central Ohio Respite Guide
- Central Ohio Moving and Transitions Guide
- Central Ohio Hiring In-Home Care Guide(NEW)

The COAAA also provides monthly Caregiver Support Groups & Information Sessions. For more information call 800-589-7277 or visit www.coaaa.org.

Or in your county, call one of these agencies:

- **Delaware**-SourcePoint 740-363-6677
- **Fairfield**-Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County 740-681-5050
- **Fayette**-Community Action Commission of Fayette Co. 740-335-7282
- **Franklin**-Franklin Co. Office on Aging 614-525-6200
- **Licking**-Licking Co. Aging Program 740-345-0821 or 1-800-452-0097
- **Madison**-Madison Co. Senior Center 740-852-3001
- **Pickaway**-Pickaway County Senior Center 740-474-8831
- **Union**-Union County Senior Services 937-644-1010

Central Ohio Kinship Care Guide

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1. What is Kinship Care?

When a child cannot live with his or her parent/guardian/ custodian, kinship caregivers often take over the full-time responsibility of caring for that child, providing ongoing stability, support and guidance. The definition of a kinship caregiver also goes beyond the scope of blood relative and may include an adult who has a familiar relationship/bond with the child and/or family.

Kinship care can be temporary, meaning the child eventually returns home, or moves to another home. Kinship care can also be permanent, meaning the kin caregivers will care for the child until he or she becomes an adult.

Kinship care takes many forms. When the child goes to live with a relative or close family friend, the court may also give that person temporary custody of the child. Or, the court may grant Children Services custody while the child lives with the kin caregiver.

Regardless of the type of kinship arrangement, the kinship caregivers' voluntary commitment to step up and devote their lives to the children under their care can be a courageous, life-changing decision.



2 Finding Help with EXPENSES

Raising children is expensive. No matter how much you love the children in your care, you have to be practical. Before the children came to live with you, you probably had a household budget which met your needs. Now it may be strained to the breaking point. The good news is that financial assistance may be available to you, as listed below.

Kinship caregivers can apply at their local Job and Family Services Offices which are listed on p. 21-28 of this guide. Or they can apply online for assistance and/or report changed to their current situation by using www.odjfsbenefits.ohio.gov. The website also gives customers the ability to check on their benefit status, to see if it is approved, denied or pending.

Kinship Permanency Incentive Program

The Kinship Permanency Incentive (KPI) program was created to support children in the homes of family or friends who have committed to caring for them when birth parents cannot. KPI provides time-limited incentive payments to families caring for their kin. Eligible kinship caregivers will receive an initial payment to defray costs of initial placement and may receive subsequent payments at six-month intervals to support the stability of the child's placement in the home. The maximum incentive amount may not exceed eight payments and will not be provided for longer than forty-eight consecutive months. KPI payments are in addition to Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance received for the child. Eligibility requirements for Ohio's Kinship Permanency Incentive Program include:

- The court must have awarded legal custody or guardianship of the child on or after July 1, 2005 to the kinship caregiver, based on the best interest of the child.
- The public children services agency must have completed the Relative or Non-Relative Substitute Placement Approval Process, inclusive of a criminal background check, as well as completion of an application form.
- The gross income of the caregiver's family, including the child, may not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Ohio Works First Cash Assistance

Caregivers and the children in their care may be eligible to receive Ohio Works First (OWF) monthly cash assistance. To qualify, kinship caregivers must document the relationship by blood or marriage to the child. Non-relative kinship caregivers must be legal guardians or custodians to the child in care in order to qualify.

There are two ways that relatives can receive Ohio Works First(OWF) Benefits— Child Only OWF and Household OWF.

Child-Only OWF Benefits

In these cases, the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) does not take into account your income and will provide money for you as part of the OWF grant for the children. These are called “child-only cases.” You will generally be able to receive this money until the child turns 18 or leaves your home. If you have a child-only grant, you will not be affected by many of the OWF requirements that you may have heard about, such as work requirements or time limits. However, in order to receive OWF child-only assistance, you must be willing to cooperate with Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) requirements to ensure that the child’s parents are held financially responsible.

Household OWF Grants

The second way for kinship caregivers to receive OWF for the child in your care is for you to also be part of the household grant. A kinship caregiver can be included in the grant if you have no children of your own living with you. This means that the county JFS will look at your income and if you are eligible for OWF, include you as part of the grant (your spouse’s income will also be reviewed). You will receive more money because the grant will be for both you and the children in your care. However, the welfare reform requirements will apply to you. This means that you will be required to work and will be limited to three years of OWF assistance.

Most relative caregivers receive child-only grants and do not have to meet the work requirements and time limits.

Food Assistance Benefits/Direction Card

- Food assistance for kinship caregivers is possibly available as a plastic card called the *Ohio Direction Card*, which can be used instead of cash to buy food. No sales tax can be charged on these purchases. The *Ohio Direction Card* cannot be used to buy non-food items like soap, diapers, alcohol or tobacco. Your JFS caseworker will determine whether your household qualifies for food assistance by looking at the gross income of everyone in the household.
- Please note: if you have a child-only grant for the children in your care, then your income was not initially considered by JFS when it determined your eligibility for OWF. Your income may be too high for your family to obtain food assistance, even though you can receive OWF. The important thing to know, however, is that you should apply for both programs.

Child Support

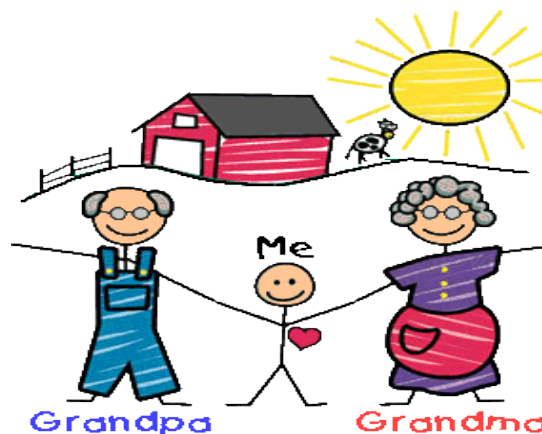
- Child support may be available to any kinship caregiver who is caring full-time for a child. In order to be eligible for child support, the caregiver must have physical custody of the child. This means that the child must live with, and be cared for full-time by the kinship caregiver. The amount of child support the child's parents will be ordered to pay to the caregiver depends on both of the parents' ability to pay, and the needs of the child. If the caregiver is already receiving OWF for the child, child support will be paid directly to the county JFS.
- A Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) is located in every county and provides services to obtain and maintain child support. A CSEA can help order child support wage withholding from a parent's paycheck, intercept tax refunds, help to locate an absent parent, and establish paternity. These agencies are listed in this guide on p. 21-28.

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program (PRC)

Each county has one of these programs and they offer a variety of job training, employment assistance and other work support to lower income Ohioans. This can include clothing and shelter assistance, housing relocation and disaster assistance, and transportation assistance. Contact your county Job and Family Services Agency to apply. These are found on p. 21-28 of this guide.

Adoption Assistance

Several Federal and State programs exist in Ohio to assist with meeting children's needs after they have been adopted. Contact your county Public Children Services Agency on p. 21-28 of this guide if you are adopting a child to see if you are eligible for one of these programs.



3. Finding Help with MEDICAL SERVICES

Healthy Start, Healthy Families & Healthcheck Programs (Medicaid)

Ohio Medicaid offers three programs for children, pregnant women and families with limited income to get health care. For more information about these services or to apply, contact your County Dept. of Job and Family Services p.21-28 of this guide. Or you can apply online for assistance and/or report changed to your current situation by using www.odjfsbenefits.ohio.gov. The website also gives customers the ability to check on their benefit status, to see if it is approved, denied or pending.

Healthy Start

Healthy Start includes Medicaid and CHIP programs.

The Medicaid program is available to:

- Insured or uninsured children (up to age 19) in families with income up to 156% of the federal poverty level.
- Pregnant women in families with income up to 200% of the federal poverty level.

The CHIP program is available to:

- Uninsured children (up to age 19) in families with income up to 206% of the federal poverty level.

Healthy Families

Healthy Families is a Medicaid program available to:

- Families with income up to 90% of the federal poverty level and a child younger than age 19

Early Intervention Services Program (Healthcek)

Healthcek is Ohio's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Individuals younger than age 21 who are covered by Ohio Medicaid can receive important preventive services through Healthcek, including:

- physicals
- hearing, vision, and dental screenings
- nutritional screenings
- mental health screenings
- developmental screenings
- vaccinations
- blood lead screenings

Healthcek support services are also available to help you with making appointments, transportation and referrals to community services for food, clothing and other needs.

Women, Infants and Children Program

- WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition.
- WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables, and iron-fortified infant formula; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs.
- To find a WIC clinic, check the website www.odh.ohio.gov or call **1-800-755-4769**.

Children with Medical Handicaps Program(CMH)

- The Children with Medical Handicaps Program (CMH) is a health care program in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). CMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need.
- CMH promotes early identification of children with handicapping conditions and treatment of those children by appropriate health care providers. To locate a provider, go to www.odh.ohio.gov or call 1-800-755-4769 (Parents only) or (614) 466-1700.

Help Me Grow

- Help Me Grow is Ohio's evidenced-based parent support program that encourages early prenatal and well-baby care, as well as parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development of children. Help Me Grow System includes Central Intake, Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Help me Grow Early Intervention.
- Web referral form: www.helpmegrow.org, Email: HMGreferrals@helpmegrow.org. In Central Ohio, call Action for Children at 614-656-3322.



4. Finding Help with EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Federally Mandated Identification and Services

- Kinship caregivers may find that the children in their care face challenging educational experiences. It is important for caregivers to have a good grasp of the rights and protections available to children in public schools, so they can effectively advocate for the children's needs. Children who exhibit learning and behavioral problems may qualify for federally mandated identification and individualized services. Once identified, these children are entitled to appropriate interventions.
- **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** guarantees children with disabilities from ages 3 to 21 an appropriate, free public education designed to meet their individual needs. Kinship caregivers can quickly and effectively seek school intervention by a written request for an evaluation and services.
 - This letter should be mailed to the child's school principal and superintendent. Once received, the school district must act upon the request. Under IDEA, school districts must complete action within 90 days after receipt. Testing must be completed, reported and, if the child is found to be eligible, a special education plan must be developed within this time frame. To be eligible for services, the child must have one of the following: developmental disability, hearing impairment, speech or language impairment, visual impairment, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, specific learning disability, or developmental delay for children ages 3 to 9.

Special Education Regional Resource Centers

- These centers provide regular and special education teachers, support personnel, administrators and parents with resources designed to improve the quality of instruction for children with disabilities, through the delivery of instructional materials and methodologies designed to meet the individual needs of children with special needs.
 - **State Support Team Region 11**
Counties Served: Franklin, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Madison, Pickaway, Union
2880 Citygate Drive, Columbus, OH 43219
614-445-3750
 - **State Support Team Region 14**
Counties Served: Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, Highland
5350 West New Market Road, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133
937-393-1904
 - **OCALI Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence**
470 Glenmont Avenue, Columbus, OH 43214
614-410-0321 and 866-886-2254

Head Start

- When a preschool-aged child comes to live with you, many questions come to mind. How can you be sure the child gets a good start mentally and physically? How do you care for a toddler properly without wearing yourself out? How can you prepare the child for elementary school? Enrolling the child in Head Start may be the answer to these and other questions. Head Start is a federally funded, all-day program for preschoolers that provides education, enrichment and many other services to small children and the adults raising them. The children enrolled in the program receive breakfast and lunch through the program.
- Head Start provides the following services to children ages 3-5 who live at or below the federal poverty level, as well as children with disabilities and their families:
 - Early childhood education
 - Medical services
 - Dental services
 - Nutrition services
 - Parent education
 - Other social services
- To obtain more information about Head Start or to apply, contact the local Head Start agency in your community. These are listed on p.21-28 of this guide.

Grants and Scholarships for Higher Education

Ohio Works First recipients, children in foster care and other low-income children can qualify for government grants, scholarships and low-interest loans to help support the cost of college or other post-secondary education. For a free information packet, call the Ohio Board of Regents' State Grants and Scholarships Department at 1-888-833-1133.



5. Finding Help with DAYCARE/RESPITE SERVICES

Publicly Funded Child Care

ODJFS offers financial assistance to eligible parents or legal guardians to pay for child care while they engage in work or approved school or training activities. To be eligible for publicly funded child care, a family's income must not exceed the current limit for the program. Families can be eligible for all or part of their monthly child care expenses. County departments of job and family services determine families' eligibility for this program. For more information, or to apply, inquire at your county Department of Job and Family Services. For your county agency's location and phone number, see pp. 21-28 of this guide.

Organizations Which Can Help With the Search:

Action for Children

Provides child care and early learning information free of charge for parents and caregivers; and provide professional support to child care providers.

(614) 224-0222 in English & Spanish or (855) 302-4453 Toll-free

Website is actionforchildren.org

Children's Advocacy Project of Columbus Ohio---CAP4KIDS

Maintains an up-to-date searchable database of resources for children and families in the Columbus Ohio area.

Website is Cap4kids.org/columbus

Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA)

(614) 396-5959 or (877) 547-6978

Website is ocrra.org

Ohio Child Care Finder:

Website is ohiochildcarefinder.org/find-child-care/index.php

6. Finding Help with LEGAL SERVICES

As you raise the children in your care, you probably have your hands full. Lawyers—and, in fact, the whole legal system—may be the last thing you want to think about. You also have to be concerned about expenses. You may be thinking, “OK, if I must go to court, I’ll do it on my own.”

These concerns are legitimate, but the truth is you will probably have to use the legal system, and the services of a lawyer, if you continue to raise the children in your care. You will have to take some steps to keep the children safe and secure. You will probably need legal papers just to get them medical care or enroll them in school. You may also need legal help to plan for their future or to keep them safe from harm. You will need to make decisions that require sound legal advice.

Making the Law Work for You

Legal decisions you make may affect the children in your care and your family. Only you can decide what is right for your family, not your lawyer, not your neighbor, not your best friend. Start by looking at the needs of the children in your care and thinking about how best to meet them. Then think about what will work for your family. Be honest about what you do well and what will be hard for you. Try not only to think about today, but also later when the children—and you—are older. Remember that the law is a tool, and a lawyer is someone who can help you use that tool.

Finding a Lawyer

- The decisions you make about legal issues are important. A lawyer can help you understand what each choice may mean for your family, and whether those choices might result in any legal risks. A lawyer can also help to work out agreements with the parents and present facts to the judge. If the children in your care need cash benefits or medical coverage from the government, a lawyer may help with this, too.
- The attorney you hire should be one who knows the law, who will work well with you, and who can argue effectively for the rights of the children in your care. When you find an attorney you like, preferably one who gives free initial consultations, make an appointment. Go to that first meeting with a list of the main facts of the case. Provide the lawyer with all of these facts, including facts that could hurt your case. Agree to hire the lawyer only if you feel comfortable with that individual and if you feel that you can work as a team.
- **If You Can’t Afford to Pay**
Legal Services--these law offices help low-income people with common legal problems. A list of legal resources can be found at the end of this section p. 14.

Types of Legal Custody

There are three ways to gain legal custody of a child:

- **A Custody Order.** If a judge issues you a custody order, this means you will be responsible for the child's day-to-day care but the parents will continue to have a legal relationship with the child. They will have a right to visit (unless the judge says they cannot) and could someday ask a judge to return custody to them.
- **Guardianship.** If you are appointed the child's legal guardian, this means you will be given day-to-day responsibility for the child, while the parents keep some rights. The main difference between a custody order and guardianship is that guardianship is usually granted in the probate court, with different rules.
- **Adoption.** If you adopt the child, you will become the child's legal parent in every way. The legal relationship between the child and the child's birth parents will end, and you will decide if and when they visit. The birth parents will never again have the right to ask a judge to send the children back to them, except in extremely rare situations during the first year after an adoption decree is issued

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is a federally mandated program administered by public children services agencies and supervised by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The purpose of foster care is to provide a safe environment for children and youth who temporarily cannot live with their families. The goal of foster care is to safely return the child to the parents or, when that is not possible, move the child into an adoptive or permanent home. In cases where a court has found a child to be abused or neglected, the court may certify a related caregiver or family friend as the foster parent.

Once a child is formally placed with a relative or friend who has been officially approved and licensed as a foster parent, the public children services agency (not the caregiver) maintains legal custody over the child. In the eyes of the law, the public children services agency is considered the legal custodian of the child and has ultimate control over all decisions concerning the child, including the decision to keep or not to keep the child in the caregiver's home. While the foster caregiver does have certain daily responsibilities for the care of the child, the caregiver does not have legal authority unless legal custody, guardianship or adoption is pursued.

Two Other Legal Decision Making Options in Ohio

A Power of Attorney Allows you **temporarily** to:

- Authorize the child's enrollment in school and access educational information.
- Be involved in the child's educational planning and provide consent for educational activities.
- Arrange for the child's routine and emergency medical, dental and psychological treatment.

To obtain Power of Attorney for a child, you must:

- Fill out the appropriate form.
- Understand and agree to the terms regarding Power of Attorney.
- Provide the signature of the consenting parent, yourself and the official notary.
- File the form with your local juvenile court within five days of signing.

Caretaker Authorization Affidavit If you have tried but failed to locate the child's parents after making reasonable efforts to do so, you may obtain a Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit. The Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit allows you **temporarily** to:

- Authorize the child's enrollment in school and access educational information.
- Be involved in the child's educational planning and provide consent for educational activities.
- Arrange for the child's routine and emergency medical, dental and psychological treatment

To obtain a Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit, you must:

- Fill out the appropriate form.
- Understand and agree to the terms of the Affidavit.
- Provide your signature and that of an official notary.
- File the form with your local juvenile court within five days of signing it.

Important: Neither of these documents, a Power of Attorney or a Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit gives you authority over a child's adoption, marriage or custody arrangements. If you have questions about obtaining a Power of Attorney or Caretaker Authorization Affidavit, call the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Kinship Program Coordinator at 614-466-1213. To download these forms, go to www.odjfs.ohio.gov or go to www.coaaa.org and look in *the Caregiver Section*.



Resources for Legal Assistance

- **Family & Youth Law Center (FYLAW)**

Works within child welfare, adoption, and juvenile justice systems to support positive outcomes for children, youth, and families. They offer direct representation of system-involved youth, advocacy, training and education. Website is www.familyyouthlaw.org
Capital University Law School.

303 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, (614) 236-6730

- **Legal Aid Society of Columbus (LASC)**

Provides free civil legal assistance and guidance to low income residents and senior citizens of Columbus and Central Ohio (residents of Franklin, Madison, Delaware, Marion, Morrow and Union counties). Legal Aid attorneys may be able to help you with the following types of cases or legal problems: consumer law, family law, housing, foreclosure, public benefits, reentry, seniors, tax, veterans, education and “Brief Advice” clinics. Website is columbuslegalaid.org.

- Columbus Office: Intake: (614) 241-2001 or (888) 246-4420
General Inquiries: (614) 224-8374 or (877) 224-8374
- Marion Office: (740) 383-2161 or (888) 301-2411

- **Southeastern Ohio Legal Services (SEOLS)**

Gives free legal help to low-income people throughout 30 counties in southeastern Ohio. They handle public benefits, housing, unemployment compensation, family issues, education, employment, health and other matters. Website is seols.org.

- **Administrative Office**
1108 City Park Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43206, (800) 589-5888
- **Athens Office** (740) 594-3558 or (800) 686-3669
- **Chillicothe Office** (740) 773-0012 or (800) 686-3668
- **New Philadelphia Office** (330) 339-3998 or (800) 686-3670
- **Newark Office** (740) 345-0850 or (888) 831-9412



7. Listing of Community Resources



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- **County Specific Services**
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Ohio Advocacy and Support

Children's Advocacy Project of Columbus Ohio---CAP4KIDS

Maintains an up-to-date searchable database of resources for children and families in the Central Ohio area. Resource categories include:

After School Programs/Camps, Behavior/Counseling/Addiction, Child Abuse/Bullying/Trafficking, Child Care, Domestic/Community Violence, Early Intervention/Development, Education, Employment/Training/Volunteers, Food, Health Care/Prescriptions, Healthy Lifestyle & Nutrition, Housing/Utilities/Clothing, Immigration/ESL/Minorities, Legal/Financial Help, Literacy, Medical Conditions/Supplies, Parenting/Foster Care/Adoption, Pregnancy/New Baby, Safety/Shelters, Special Needs/Autism, Stop Smoking, Teens, and Transportation.

Website is Cap4kids.org/columbus

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Kinship Program

Lists the programs for Kinship care across the state and has access to a statewide resource manual. Phone number is at 614-466-1213. Website is http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/kinship_care.stm

Ohio Family Care Association

303 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215

OFCA is a statewide advocacy organization for adoptive, foster, kinship, primary and respite families caring for children impacted by Ohio's child protection system. OFCA provides information, support and resources to primary birth, adoptive, foster, and kinship families. The organization operates a Warm Line to provide support to families in non-crisis situations.

614-222-2712, 800-228-3014 (Warm Line)

Website is www.ofcaonline.org

Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition

The Ohio Grandparent/Kinship Coalition (OGKC) consists of kinship caregivers, kinship caregiver advocates and agencies throughout Ohio. OGKC aims to identify kinship care issues and propose solutions to government and other agencies on behalf of grandparents and other kinship care providers. The coalition meets six times per year and invites all kinship caregivers and professionals to attend. For more information, visit OGKC's website at

www.ohiograndparentkinship.org/

Public Children's Services Association of Ohio

Membership organization of county children's services agencies which advocates for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities

614-224-5802, Website is www.pcsao.org

Central Ohio Area Wide Services

Action for Children

Provides child care and early learning information free of charge for parents and caregivers; and provide professional support to child care providers. They also offer year-round parenting classes for parents with kids of all ages throughout Central Ohio, provide information about choosing quality child care, and help people who operate home-based childcare.

78 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 224-0222 in English & Spanish or (855) 302-4453 (800) 750-0750

Website is actionforchildren.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Amachi Program

A one-to-one mentoring program that matches children of incarcerated parents with volunteers from the community. Visit the website or call to find out how to enroll a child.

1855 East Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229

(614) 839-2447 or (866) 892-2447

Website is bbbscentralohio.org/programs.

Center for Family Safety & Healing

Addresses all aspects of family violence including child abuse and neglect, teen dating abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. They offer community training and a continuum of research-based prevention, intervention and treatment programs for individuals (like counseling and medical services for foster children) who have experienced family violence,

655 East Livingston Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43205, (614) 722-8200

Website is familysafetyandhealing.org.

Columbus Literacy Council (CLC)

Offers free adult education programs, basic literacy classes (including financial, workplace and technology literacy) for families, citizenship classes and GED test preparation. They also provide career coaching and entrepreneurship skill building, life and wellness coaching, ASL (American Sign Language) classes, Spanish classes and more. For youth they offer tutoring and homework help, summer camps for children ages 7-13 years old, internships, and an employment program (called A.M.P.) that provides job skills and work experience to youth and young adults between the ages of 14-24 in Franklin County. (614) 224-0501 Website is clcworks.org.

Directions for Youth & Families (DFYF)

Program: Offers youth and their families mental, emotional and behavioral health programs and services. Licensed social workers and counselors provide counseling and clinical treatment programs addressing a range of issues including school concerns, sexual abuse, delinquency, domestic violence, family conflict, substance abuse and mental health issues. They also offer parenting classes, free kindergarten readiness programs and after-school and summer programs at their two youth centers.

Direction for Youth and Families (Continued)

Eligibility: ages (from 6 weeks old up to 21 years old) vary per program

Cost: government insurance (Medicaid, Molina, Caresource), private insurance and self-pay (sliding scale fees based on income); most programs are free

Referral: individuals may refer themselves or be referred by someone else for the counseling programs; for psychiatric services they need to be referred through a Directions for Youth counselor Intake: (614) 294-2661, Website is [.dfyf.org](http://dfyf.org)

I Am Boundless

A not for profit agency that assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or behavioral health challenges and their families. They offer long-term and temporary residential support, in-home and out-of-home respite services, applied behavior analysis (ABA) and outpatient behavior health services, vocational habilitation, summer programs for youth with autism, telehealth services and more. Their Family Support Services are provided by the State of Ohio for families who have chosen to keep their family member with developmental disabilities at home. Website is iamboundless.org

Nationwide Children's Hospital Programs

- **SPARK Program**-A free program to help a child get ready for kindergarten. The SPARK Program will come to you at the home or a location of your choice. This program is for a child who will start kindergarten in the Fall and live in zip codes 43205, 43206, or 43207. Visit the website for additional contact and application information. (614) 355-0714 or (614) 355-0617
Website is nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/courses-for-parents-and-kids/spark-program
- **Dental Clinic**--Provides routine and emergency walk-in dental care for babies, children and teens, including those with special health care needs. They offer sliding scale fees for those who cannot afford a private dentist. They accept many insurances as well, including Medicaid.
380 Butterfly Gardens Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43215, (614) 722-5650
Website is nationwidechildrens.org/dentistry
- **Support groups** at NCH can connect you with other families and resources in your time of need. 700 Children's Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43205. (614) 722-6300
Website is: nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/support-groups
 - Adolescent & Adult Congenital Heart Disease (614) 722-5622
 - Bariatric Surgery Patient Support Group (614) 722-5949
 - Cleft Lip and Palate Support Group (614) 962-6366
 - Celiac's Gluten Free Gang (614) 722-3093
 - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Resources
 - Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) (614) 278-3377
 - Seasons for Caring (Hospital Family Bereavement Group)(614) 722-525

Mount Carmel Crime & Trauma Assistance Program (CTAP)

Offers trauma-focused, best practice and trauma specific services to children and adult victims, survivors, and co-survivors of crime and trauma at no cost.

Program: Services include individual trauma informed counseling, group therapeutic services, trauma informed yoga groups, play therapy, horticultural therapeutic programs and clinical case management

Eligibility: ages 5 and up who have experienced a traumatic event

Cost: free

Referral: They accept both self-referrals and professional referrals to the program.

(614) 234-5900

Website is mountcarmelhealth.com/about-us/community-benefit/outreach-programs/crime-and-trauma-assistance-program-ctap

Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University (OSU)

Offers complete services for children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, including an autism clinic, behavior support services, dental care for children with developmental disabilities, early intervention programs, psychiatric services, special education/transition services. They also have a toy and technology library. Their website has an extensive list of resources for families as well.

1581 Dodd Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210

Call(614) 685-3192 or (855) 983-9955 Website is nisonger.osu.edu

Ohio Guidestone

Provides counseling and treatment services for children and adults, pregnancy and parenting support, respite care, domestic violence shelter, and foster care services, as well as substance abuse and addiction recovery that include peer support and housing, and more.

(800) 639-4974 Toll-free Crisis Line: (440) 260-8595

Website is ohioguidestone.org

PALS A Chrysalis Health Company

Provide support to individuals with developmental disabilities by building on the foundation of physical activity and life skills (PALS). They offer adult day services, residential services, life skill classes, activities and vocational training programs.

Website is palschrysalishealth.com

Red Treehouse

This online resource supporting the physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of children and young adults, prenatal to age 25. The website helps families find resources, organizations and events to meet their specific needs and challenges. Users can customize profiles by location (counties within Ohio), age ranges and topics of interest.

10415 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 Website is redtreehouse.org

St. Vincent Family Center (SVFC)

Provides behavioral health intervention and treatment services to youth with emotional and behavioral challenges.

Program: outpatient and inpatient services (home-based and school-based), therapeutic preschools and after school programs, residential care, and support for foster families. They provide specialized services to Hispanic / Latino children.

Eligibility: youth ages 3-18 years old

Cost: therapies can be billed to Medicaid and a variety of insurances

Referral: individuals may refer themselves or be referred by a physician or organization

1490 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205

(614) 252-0731 or (614) 824-5437, ask for Intake Website is svfc.org

Sesame Street in the Communities

Offers providers and parents resources to help children thrive and deal with some common issues that affect children’s lives. Explore topics related to health and wellness, social-emotional skills, and school readiness. Some topics are: Managing Asthma, Autism, Divorce, Parents in Prison, Eating Well, Grief, Handling Emergencies

sesamestreetincommunities.org

To view their additional toolkit: sesamestreet.org/toolkits



Delaware County

County Department of Job and Family Services

145 N. Union Street

Delaware, OH 43015

Phone/Ext: (740) 833-2300, (800) 899-3180,

Website: jfs.co.delaware.oh.us/

Child Support Enforcement Agency

145 N. Union Street

Delaware, OH 43015

Phone/Ext: (740) 833-2720, (800) 490-9534

Website: jfs.co.delaware.oh.us/

Public Children Services Agency

145 N. Union Street

Delaware, OH 43015-1789 Phone/Ext: (740) 833-

2300, (800) 899-3130

Website: jfs.co.delaware.oh.us/

Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities

7991 Columbus Pike

Lewis Center OH 43035

740-201-3600

Website is www.dcbdd.org

LEADS Head Start

607 Sunbury Rd.

Delaware OH 43015

740-363-8810

Delaware County FCF Council

145 N. Union Street, 2nd Floor

Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: (740) 833-2385

Fairfield County

County Department of Job and Family Services

239 W. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
Phone/Ext: (740) 652-7889, (800) 450-8845
Website: www.fcjfs.org

Child Support Enforcement Agency

239 W. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
Phone/Ext: (740) 652-7888, (800) 409-2732
Website: www.fcjfs.org

Public Children Services Agency

239 W. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
Phone/Ext: (740) 652-7887, (800) 450-8845
Website: www.fcjfs.org

Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

795 College Ave.
Lancaster OH 43130
740-652-7220
Website: www.fairfieldddd.com

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Head Start

PO Box 768, 1743 E. Main St.
Lancaster, OH 43130
740-653-4146
Website: www.faircaa.org

Fairfield County FCF Council

831 College Avenue, Suite C
Lancaster, OH 43130
Phone: (740) 652-7283

Fayette County

County Department of Job and Family Services

133 S. Main St.
Washington Court House, OH 43160
Phone/Ext: (740) 335-0350, (800) 845-3272
Website: www.fayette-co-oh.com/

Child Support Enforcement Agency

133 S. Main St.
Washington Court House, OH 43160
Phone/Ext: (740) 335-0745, (800) 922-0745
Website: www.fayette-co-oh.com/

Public Children Services Agency

133 S. Main St.
Washington Court House, OH 43160
Phone/Ext: (740) 335-0350
Website: www.fayette-co-oh.com/

Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities

1330 Robinson Rd. SE
Washington Court House OH 43160
740-335-7453
Website: www.fayettetdd.com

Community Action Commission of Fayette County

Early Learning Center Head Start

1400 US RT 22 NW
Washington C.H., OH 43160
740-335-7138,
Website: www.cacfayettcounty.org

Fayette County FCF Council

133 S. Main Street
Washington Court House, OH 43160
Phone: (740) 335-0350 Ext. 274

Franklin County

County Department of Job and Family Services

1721 Northland Park Ave.

Columbus, OH 43229

Phone/Ext: (614) 233-2000

Website: <https://jfs.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Child Support Enforcement Agency

80 E. Fulton St., Columbus, OH 43215

Phone/Ext: (614) 525-3275, (800) 827-3740

Website: www.support.franklincountyohio.gov/Public

Children Services Agency

855 W. Mound St.

Columbus, OH 43223

Phone/Ext: (614) 275-2571

Website: www.childservices.franklincountyohio.gov/

Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

2879 Johnstown Rd.

Columbus OH 43219

614-475-6440

Website: www.fcbdd.org

Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc.

Head Start

1077 Lexington Avenue

Columbus, OH 43201

614-221-1709, www.cdcheadstart.org

The Ohio State University; Schoenbaum Family Center

Head Start

175 East 7th Avenue

Columbus, OH 43201

614-247-7488, www.earlychildhood.ehe.osu.edu/

YMCA of Central Ohio--Head Start

1907 Leonard Ave; Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43219

614-389-4840, www.ymcacolumbus.org

Franklin County FCF Council

2760 Airport Drive, STE 130 A

Columbus, OH 43219

Phone: (614) 407-9040

Clintonville Beechwold Center

Kinship Program

3222 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43202

614-268-3539

Website: www.clintonvillecrc.org

The Kinship Care Program helps children avoid placement in a non-related foster home when parents are absent, and therefore helps them maintain stability in their education. Kinship families who increase their caregiver knowledge, skills, and involvement in their child's education in turn produce children who feel loved, confident and supported in their educational setting.

This allows them to enter school ready to succeed and ultimately better able to graduate from high school. CRC's Kinship Care Program provides support to children and their caregivers in all life domain areas including food, housing, healthcare and transportation to name a few. Providing basic needs in the home is essential for children to be successful in school.

Licking County

County Department of Job and Family Services

74 S. Second St., P.O. Box 5030
Newark, OH 43058-5030
Phone/Ext: (740) 670-8999, (888) 895-2790
Website: www.lickingcountyjfs.com

Child Support Enforcement Agency

65 E. Main St.
Newark, OH 43055
Phone/Ext: (740) 670-5998, (800) 513-1128
Website: www.lcounty.com/csea/

Public Children Services Agency

74 S. Second St., P.O. Box 5030
Newark, OH 43058-5030
Phone/Ext: (740) 670-8999, (888) 895-2790
Website: www.Lickingcountyjfs.com

Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities

116 N. 22nd St.
Newark OH 43055
740-349-6588
Website: www.lcountydd.org

LEADS Head Start--Administrative Office

159 Wilson St.
Newark, OH 43055
740-349-8606,
Website: www.leadscas.org

Licking County FCF Council

74 S. Second Street, PO Box 5030
Newark, OH 43058
Phone: (740) 670-8844

Madison County

County Department of Job and Family Services

200 Midway St.
London, OH 43140-1356
Phone/Ext: (740) 852-4770, (800) 852-0243
Website: www.co.madison.oh.us

Child Support Enforcement Agency

200 Midway St.
London, OH 43140-1356
Phone/Ext: (740) 852-4770, (800) 852-0243
Website: www.co.madison.oh.us

Public Children Services Agency

200 Midway St.
London, OH 43140-1356
Phone/Ext: (740) 852-4770
Website: www.co.madison.oh.us

Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities

500 Elm St.
London OH 43140
740-852-7050
Website: <https://www.themcbdd.com/>

London Head Start Program

510 Elm St.
London, OH 43130
740-852-5412

Madison County FCF Council

PO Box 624, 200 Midway Street
London, OH 43140
Phone: (740) 852-0339

Pickaway County

County Department of Job and Family Services

1005 S. Pickaway Street PO Box 610
Circleville, OH 43113
Phone/Ext: (740) 474-7588, (800) 822-5437
Website: www.pickawayjfs.org

Child Support Enforcement Agency

1005 S. Pickaway Street PO Box 610
Circleville, OH 43113
Phone/Ext: (740) 474-7588, (800) 822-5437
Website: www.pickawayjfs.org

Public Children Services Agency

1005 S. Pickaway Street PO Box 610
Circleville, OH 43113
Phone/Ext: (740) 474-7588, (800) 822-5437
Website: www.pickawayjfs.org

Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities

200 E. High St.
Circleville OH 43113
740-477-3353
Website: www.pickawaydd.org

Pickaway County Community Action Org.-Head Start

469 East Ohio Street (main office)
Circleville, Ohio 43113
(740) 477-1655

Pickaway County FCF Council

2050 Stoneridge Drive
Chillicothe, OH 43113
Phone: (740) 474-7529 Ext, 10416

Union County

County Department of Job and Family Services

940 London Ave., Ste. 1800, P.O. Box 389

Marysville, OH 43040-0389

Phone/Ext: (937) 644-1010, (800) 248-2347

Website: www.co.union.oh.us/Department-of-Job-Family-Services/

Child Support Enforcement Agency

940 London Ave., Ste. 1800, P.O. Box 389

Marysville, OH 43040-0389

Phone/Ext: (937) 644-1010, (800) 248-2347

Website: www.co.union.oh.us/Department-of-Job-Family-Services/

Public Children Services Agency

940 London Ave., Ste. 1800, P.O. Box 389

Marysville, OH 43040-0389

Phone/Ext: (937) 644-1010, Child Care Network: (937) 642-4453

Website: www.co.union.oh.us/Department-of-Job-Family-Services/

Union County Board of Developmental Disabilities

1280 Charles Ln.

Marysville OH 43040

937-645-6733

Website: www.ucbdd.org

Marysville Head Start Center

111 Morey Dr.

Marysville, OH 43030

937-642-1230

Union County FCF Council

131 North Main Street

Marysville, OH 43040

Phone: (937) 738-9800

The Central Ohio Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) is a collaborative effort of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and community partners, designed to streamline access to long-term services and supports that promote community living, personal choice and independence for older adults and all persons with disabilities regardless of age.

Central Ohio Community Partners Include:

Centers for Independent Living

- **MOBILE: Center for Independent Living** (Mid Ohio)
690 High Street, Columbus, OH 43206
614-443-5936, www.mobileonline.org
- **SOCIL (Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living)**
Fairfield County Office, 418 South Broad Street, Lancaster, OH 43130
740-689-1494
Hocking County Office, 1369 East Front Street Logan, Ohio 43138
740-380-1475, www.socil.org
- **CDE Center for Disability Empowerment**
510 E. North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214, 614-575-8055
www.disabilityempowerment.net

Senior Service Providers

- **Source Point**, 800 Cheshire Dr., Delaware, OH 43015,
740-363-6677, www.mysourcepoint.org
- **Meals on Wheels of Fairfield Co**, 1515 Cedar Hill Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130,
740-681-5050, www.mowfc.org
- **Fayette County Commission on Aging**, 1179 S. Elm St., Washington Court House, OH 43160, 740-335-2159, www.fayettecoa.com
- **Franklin Co. Office on Aging**. 280 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215,
614-525-6200, www.officeonaging.org
- **Licking Co. Aging Program**, 1058 E. Main St., Newark, OH 43055,
740-345-0821 or 800-452-0097, www.lcap.org
- **Madison Co. Senior Center** 280 W. High St., London, OH 43140,
740-852-3001, www.mcsenior.org
- **Pickaway County Senior Center**, 2105 Chickasaw Dr., P.O. Box 565, Circleville, OH 43113, 740-474-8831, www.pickawayseniors.org
- **Union County Senior Services**, 940 London Ave., Marysville, OH 43040,
937-644-1010, www.co.union.oh.us