

In Ohio, county Family and Children First Councils (FCFC's) are established by the Board of County Commissioners. Local public or private agencies that fund, advocate or provide services to children and families can become members of the council. FCFC also includes families who have received services in the county.



Why do Family and Children First Councils Exist?



What do Family and Children First Councils Do?



How do Family and Children First Councils Work?



The Mahoning County Family and Children First Council (MCFCFC) is inclusive. Council meetings are open to the public and family involvement is welcome and mandated.

Service providers who would like to become paid members of MCFCFC are given the opportunity to:

- Run for seat on Executive Committee
- Serve on committees
- Apply for Grants through MCFCFC
- Receive letters of support
- Receive community information and updates via our E-mail list
- Have voting rights

A nominal fee is charged for membership to offset operating costs.

Family representatives are not required to pay a membership fee.



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The Mahoning County Family and Children First Council (MCFCCFC) offers several services to families and children of Mahoning County.

Services include:

- Referral to additional support people who are not yet involved, but may help the child and/or family.
- Referral for respite/family support activities and assistance for paying the cost of these services.
- WrapAround Service Coordination. WrapAround is for families who receive services through more than one agency. The child and family work with a “Facilitator” to create a team made up of the family, natural supports (such as other family members, neighbors, friends, etc.), informal supports (church, coaches, etc.), and formal supports (agencies, professionals, etc.). The family and team develop one plan that all the agencies utilize to assist the family. The plan is based on strengths of the child and family. Each team member including the child and family has responsibilities in the plan.
- Transition planning — Use of WrapAround process to work together to help make the transition between home to residential placement and back to the home / community smooth and supportive. This transition includes determining the goals of placement, reviewing progress made, if placement is meeting the goals or if changes are needed, and what supports are needed to bring the child home and assure a stable environment.

WrapAround is a new process for Mahoning County.

It is:

- Community Based
- Driven by families
- A full partnership between families, children, natural supports, and professionals
- Based on the family’s and child’s strengths
- Flexible and individualized
- A balance between formal, structured, and informal support systems



How is this different?

- The family directs the plan
- The plans developed are flexible and unique to each family
- Plans that do not meet the needs of the family are reviewed and changed.

What can I expect?

A WrapAround facilitator works with the family to identify four to ten people who know the family best. These people form a support team that works together to achieve the goals chosen by the family.



The child/family always has:

- A choice about the services they receive
- A voice in the manner in which they receive services
- Ownership of decisions that affect their lives



The facilitator, trained in the WrapAround process, is responsible for keeping the team focused on the family’s goals. The family works with the facilitator and team to ensure the plan is right for them.