



Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

April 12, 2018

Memorandum To: Local Family and Children First Coordinators
From: Director Tracy J. Plouck, FCFC Statewide Chair 
Subject: FCFCs and TANF Resources to Prevent Custody Relinquishment

As you are aware, Ohio Family & Children First Executive Director Chad Hibbs recently sent guidance to explain how local FCFCs can access reimbursement through TANF to fund time-limited services to help prevent custody relinquishment from occurring within FCFC-involved families. The guidance (<http://fcf.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Home/Shared%20Accountability/Funding%20Information/SFY18-19CrisisGuidance2.22.18.pdf>) explains the process FCFC coordinators can use to seek reimbursement for eligible expenditures in support of families with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

In a February 5, 2018 stakeholder meeting, concerns were raised regarding communities wherein there is a need for intervention to assist at-risk families with incomes below 200% FPL, but where there are insufficient local resources to pay for the services, which would then be eligible for the TANF reimbursement. During these discussions, I offered to consider the possibility of OhioMHAS putting forward the “first dollar” in cases where the local FCFC lacked resources, thereby resulting in families receiving services, and OhioMHAS could then recoup the TANF reimbursement. Reimbursements to OhioMHAS would be held in a rotary fund, which could then be recycled to assist another resource-scarce community in a similar manner.

OhioMHAS has established approximately \$250,000 that could be used to fund services identified by local FCFCs in the event the FCFC has an eligible family with eligible expenses, but no local funding source that could be used to trigger TANF reimbursement. Note that because these are OhioMHAS resources, the child in question must have an emotional disorder and be eligible for services via the behavioral health system. These funds are not available for children served exclusively by a non OhioMHAS system (i.e., a child served only by DYS and DODD systems would not be eligible for the OhioMHAS first dollar option).

We are hopeful that these funds will help to alleviate, on a phased basis, some of the challenges in serving children with behavioral health needs through FCFCs in resource-scarce communities. The OhioMHAS first dollar will be used to fund only those expenditures that are eligible for TANF reimbursement, which will enable us to recycle the cash and help multiple communities during the fiscal year. Depending on the number of communities that are accessing this cash at any given time, there may be insufficient resources to address all requests. With that said, please keep this potential option in mind and contact us to connect a family in your area with some assistance through this process. If you are working to connect a family with services and your FCFC lacks resources as described above, please contact Chad Hibbs at Chad.Hibbs@mha.ohio.gov or (614) 902-4117.

cc: Chad Hibbs, Ohio Family and Children First Executive Director
Statewide FCFC Directors & Deputies
Kelly Reidenbach, Office of Ohio Governor John R. Kasich
Senator Randy Gardner
Representative Sarah LaTourette