

Building Bridges Community Experience

Aimee Matusik

Colleen Tucker

Ohio Family and Children First

ofcf@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

09/24/2025



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



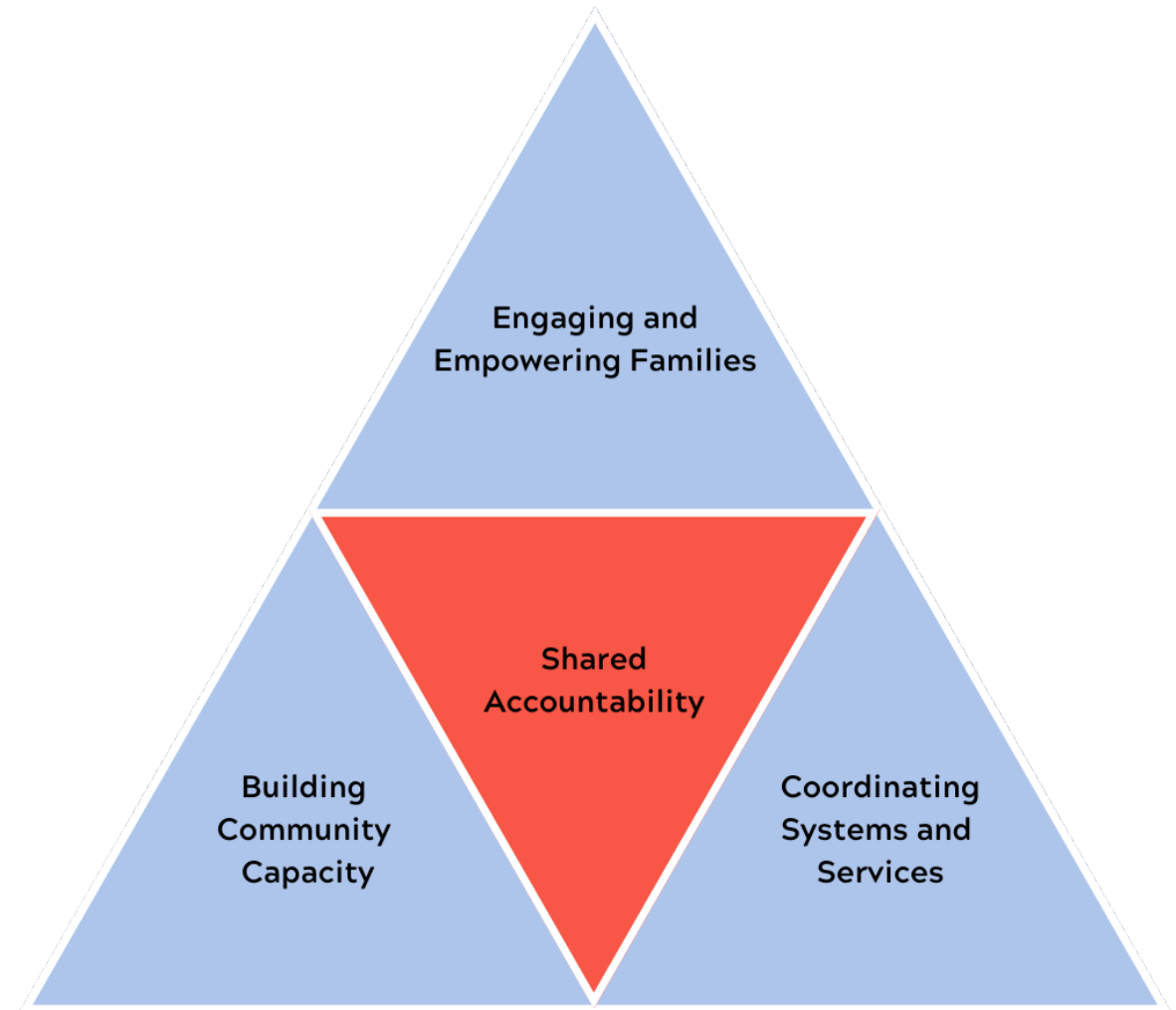
OUR PURPOSE

Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council was created in statute (ORC 121.37) in 1993 with the specific purpose:

“...to help families seeking government services...by streamlining and coordinating existing services for families seeking assistance for their children.”

FCFC CORE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Engaging and Empowering Families
- Building Community Capacity
- Coordinating Systems and Services
- Shared Accountability



MICRO RESPONSIBILITIES

CORE FUNCTION	MICRO
Engaging and Empowering Families	Engaging families, Listening, Building Rapport to meet the needs of the youth and family; Families as equal partners
Building Community Capacity	Working with youth, families and teams; identify services and supports that were not previously available; natural supports
Coordinating Systems and Services	Service Coordination/Wraparound (e.g. traffic controller) – connect families to needed services and supports; Strengths based
Shared Accountability	Everyone involved with a youth has a role and is accountable to moving activities forward; outcomes

MICRO EXAMPLE:

- A 16-year-old referred to the FCFC for Service Coordination by Parole Officer prior to release from DYS facility
- Needs – med management, referral for continued therapy, enroll in career tech program, obtain part-time job and driver's education
- Team met twice in the first month and then monthly for an additional eight months.

Team consisted of:

- Family
 - School personnel
 - Mental health provider
 - Parole Officer
 - FCFC staff
 - CCMEP - CSB Staff
 - Mentor
- Outcome for the youth and family – Youth enrolled in school attended the Career Center in a program of interest, obtained driver's license, gained a part-time job, family developed better communication skills to improve overall health of family and youth.

CORE FUNCTION	MACRO
Engaging and Empowering Families	Involve families in program and policy development; Family Representatives on Council
Building Community Capacity	Identify Gaps to Services, Supports, Funding, etc. Council is mandated to develop a 3-year shared plan to address gaps/needs within the community
Coordinating Systems and Services	Eliminate duplication of services across the county. Streamline eligibility. Pooled funding to support systems and services; System of care development
Shared Accountability	Council members have shared responsibility to meet the needs of youth and families in the county and improve/address community needs; not only the Council Administrator's responsibility; Monitoring and evaluation of program and process

MACRO EXAMPLE: BUDGETING EXPANSION

- An 8-year-old was referred to the FCFC for Service Coordination by her school
- Needs – med management, behavior plan at school, assisting mom with time management and budgeting skills
- Team met twice a month for the first three months and then monthly for an additional six months. Team consisted of:
 - Mom
 - School personnel
 - Mental health provider
 - JFS staff
 - FCFC staff
- Outcome for the youth and family – Youth end the year with improved grades and behavior, mom developed skills for financial, grocery, and time management and was empowered to help her and her daughter have a better future.
- Identification of a need to build capacity and expand availability

MACRO EXAMPLE: BUDGETING EXPANSION

- Looked at a countywide need
- Financial Management Program
 - Financial
 - Track Spending (food, utilities, rent, etc.)
 - Time (educational study, mental health, family, etc.)
 - Set financial goals
- Collaboration across agencies/organizations
- Shared Funding
- Outcome:
 - Opportunity for expansion in partnership with OSU Extension and CDJFS
 - Benefits families and their children

CONTACT

Email Address:

OFCF@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

Website:

[Ohio Family & Children First | Ohio.gov](http://OhioFamily&ChildrenFirst|Ohio.gov)

Aimee Matusik

Aimee.Matusik@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

Colleen Tucker

Colleen.Tucker@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov

THANK YOU!



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

