

ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES



Protecting children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community.



In 2023, Allen County Children Services (ACCS) continued its steadfast mission to protect children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community. The families intersecting with the child welfare system come to us with many complex challenges. We continue to see the impact of the addiction epidemic on our community in addition to caregivers struggling to care for children with multi-system needs. Our workforce continues to remain resilient on our dedication to ensure child safety and wellbeing for the families we serve in Allen County.

ACCS received 4,171 reports of potential child abuse in 2023. These reports prompted 838 formal case investigations that resulted in 215 children under protective supervision and 355 children placed outside of the home, 161 were placed in foster or residential care, and 194 more with a kinship caregiver. ACCS continues to prioritize kinship placements for children when they cannot remain safely in their home. Our Kinnect to Family program served 14 families in 2023 compared to 11 in 2022. This program utilizes strategies to identify kinship supports and placements options for children in foster care. ACCS also implemented in 2023 the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program that provides state and federal financial assistance to licensed kinship caregivers who become legal custodians of a foster child. It is the intent of both programs to support kinship caregivers as research has shown that children do better when they can remain with kin, within their community, and connected to their culture.

In 2023, we prioritized ensuring best child welfare practice for the families we served. We implemented the creation of a quality assurance position that focuses on reviewing cases and data, developing, and facilitating training needs for our staff. We were successful in receiving \$122,826 in best practice money from the state for our work in 2023. We continue to participate in the Ohio START program aimed at serving parents and children affected by child maltreatment and parental substance use disorders with six families served through this program in 2023.

As child welfare continues to struggle with the workforce crisis, we have utilized workforce retention funding from the state to ensure we continue to recruit and retain quality staff. We partnered with the Public Children Services Agency Organization of Ohio to focus on our agency's culture and wellbeing through the Safety Culture Learning Community. We recognize to achieve the best outcomes for the children and families we serve, we must continue to create a positive, safe culture that focuses on learning, collaboration, and inclusion.

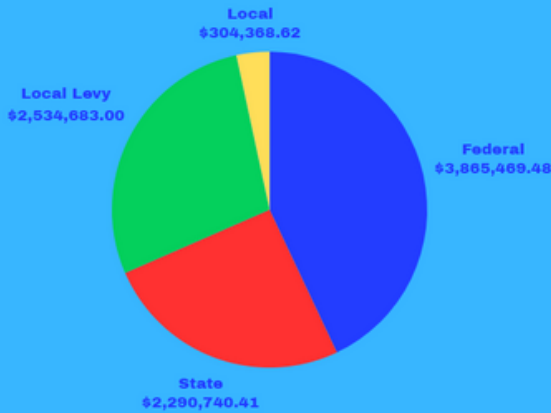
SEE NEXT PAGE

2023 by the numbers

- 4,171 referrals to our agency
- 838 referrals investigated
- 194 children in the temporary custody of relatives
- 215 children in protective supervision
- 161 children in agency custody
- 5 children found their forever home through adoption

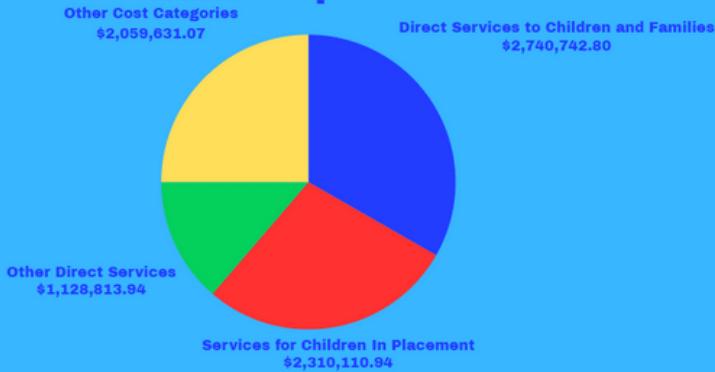
Financials

2023 Revenue



2023 Revenue		
Federal	\$3,865,469.48	42.97%
State	\$2,290,740.41	25.47%
Local Levy	\$2,534,683.00	28.18%
Local	\$304,368.62	3.38%
Total Revenue	\$8,995,261.51	100.00%

2023 Expenditures



2023 Expenditures		
Direct Services to Children and Families	\$2,740,742.80	33.26%
Services for Children in Placement	\$2,310,110.94	28.04%
Other Direct Services	\$1,128,813.94	13.70%
Other Cost Categories	\$2,059,631.07	25.00%
Total	\$8,239,298.75	100.00%

Board of Directors

- Chris Provaznik
- Christopher Jackson
- Kristopher Browning
- Aimee Bucher
- Nate Garlock
- Barbara Blass
- Jennifer Brogee
- Scott Brinkman
- Robert H. Meyer IV

Executive Director

Sarah Newland



Allen County Children Services staff on Wear Blue Day 2023

FROM FIRST PAGE

As our mission reminds us, we cannot do this work without the strength of our community and our partners. Through collaboration with the Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health, we have created partnerships that have been creative and innovative to ensure children can remain in our community. We continue to partner with our juvenile court through the Court Assessment Service Team by attending 136 team meetings in 2023 with the focus on supporting families with linkage to available community resources. It is through these partnerships our community can ensure positive outcomes for families involved with multiple systems.

On behalf of the entire staff of ACCS and our Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report to the community. We look forward to our continued service to the community through a commitment to best practice and delivery of quality services to the children and families in Allen County.

Sarah Newland, Executive Director