

INITIATIVE #2: Leadership, Infrastructure and Funding

Part Two: Funding¹

CURRENT STATE:

State and county government are both facing significant revenue shortfalls which significantly compromise their ability to fund and maintain existing levels of services. Ohio's child welfare spending is 77% of the national average (1997); the adequacy of funding among counties is disparate and the categorical earmarking of funds creates barriers to its efficient and effective use. Lack of mental health and substance abuse services contributes to the number of children coming into care and to longer stays. Presently, there is no broad based constituency or identified champion for Adult Protective Services. **The system of early care and education is increasingly utilized as a support to working families with an increasing emphasis on early learning activities.** ~~The corresponding stress on the available resources is leading to a fiscal crisis.~~

TWO-YEAR GOAL:

Effort over the next two years will focus on maintenance of current service and funding levels while concomitantly exploring the potential to generate additional/alternative revenue and achieve operational and practice efficiencies. ~~Increase Ohio's child welfare spending to 85% of National average. Begin addressing the disparate funding issue by standardizing adoption assistance. Maintain and improve mental health and drug addiction services funding targeted for consumers of child and adult social systems. Expand the advocacy to support of improving and expanding funding for Adult Protective Services.~~

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

~~We will engage community systems to jointly provide services.~~
Increase Ohio's child welfare spending to 85% of National per capita average. Begin addressing disparate inter-county funding and service levels by seeking to develop statewide standards and procedures for determining adoption assistance subsidies. Maintain and improve mental health and drug addiction services funding targeted for consumers of child and adult social systems. Expand the advocacy to support of improving and expanding funding for Adult Protective Services.

TEN-YEAR GOAL:

~~Develop and sustain networks of accessible resources, services and supports and improve community investment in meeting the needs of it's members.~~

ASSUMPTIONS:

Driving Forces:

¹Note: This initiative was completely revised in December 2002 as a result of the state's budget shortfalls.

Leadership at ODJFS and OCF of county directors; Favorable editorial/media environment; Favorable legislative environment; PCSAO; Ohio commitments to child well being; PIP-CFSR; Human Service Budget Coalition; Children's Coalition

Restraining Forces:

Recession; DeRolph; Term limits; November election; Pending federal policy changes; TANF re authorizations- federal/state/county; SB 261 push to streamline government; structural deficit of at least \$3 billion in SFY '04 and '05; changing federal policy which adversely impacts IV-E revenues

Key Stakeholders:

L. Householder; J. Trakas; D. White; B. Harris; ~~D. Depiero~~; C. Redfern; B. Spada; J. Carey; Governor Taft; Paulo DeMaria; Greg Moody; Tim Keen; Editorial Boards; State House Press Corp; Attorney General; State Auditor; Children's Coalition; Tom Hayes; Barb Riley; Dennis Blazey; PCSA Directors; PCSAO - Crystal Allen; OJFSDA - Loretta Adams; CCAO - Suzanne Alexander; all newly elected legislators

SUCCESS MEASURES: Outcome measure that will be impacted directly by full implementation of this initiative.

I. SAFETY

- Children and adults are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children and adults are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate

II. PERMANENCY

- Children and adults have permanency and stability in their living situations.

III. WELL BEING

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

IV. OHIO COMMITMENTS

- Youth choose healthy behaviors.
- Youth successfully transition into adulthood.