

# NEWS RELEASE



Mahoning County  
**Children Services**  
330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

**CONTACT:** Jennifer T. Kollar  
Public Information Officer  
**PHONE:** 330.941.8810  
**EMAIL:** [Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2019

---

## Foster/Adoption Information Event Seeks New Foster Parents to Help Address Critical Foster Homes Shortage

**[YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO]** — Mahoning County Children Services has at any given time, 150-175 children in foster care—and growing. The Agency is facing a shortage of licensed foster homes especially for caregivers who are able to accommodate sibling groups and emergency placements for children entering foster care in Mahoning County.

The opioid crisis has led to a surge in the number of children in the Agency’s custody. In Mahoning County, the number of opioid-related removals doubled from 2016 to 2018.

“The Agency currently oversees 54 local, county-licensed foster families, but we need more. we’re full. We need more and as many in-county options for children who face far worse outcomes when moved out of the county for services or placement,” states Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services.

To help address the shortage, the Agency is hosting a **Foster Parent Informational Event** which encourages anyone in Mahoning County interested in learning more about becoming a licensed foster parent to attend.

“We’re encouraging anyone who has thought about fostering or asked how they can help a child—to learn more about becoming a foster parent and to consider opening their hearts and homes to children from our community--many who are our most vulnerable and at-risk citizens,” adds Kollar.

At the Information Event, attendees will learn more about fostering and adopting Mahoning County children, meet the Agency’s Foster and Adoption teams, current Foster Parents, and have an opportunity to ask questions. Light refreshments will be provided. Space is limited. Registration is required. There is no cost to attend this event.

### Foster/Adoption Parent Information Session

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

5:30 -7:30 PM

Mahoning County Children Services

222 West Federal Street | Youngstown, Ohio 44503

**To Register**, contact Mahoning County Children Services: 330.941.8888

To read more about fostering and adopting in Mahoning County visit: [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

###