

NEW FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CAREGIVERS NEEDED

FOSTER CAREGIVERS RECEIVE:

Comprehensive Trainings
Classes and Activities
Financial and Support Services Available

Minimum Requirements for New Applicants:

- Should be at least 21 years of age.
- Can be married or unmarried. If married or divorced, we recommend you should be for one complete year.
- Should be in good physical and mental health.
- Must have income sufficient to meet the basic needs of the household.
- Must have additional room to have a child placed in the home. Home ownership is not required.
- Must attend training and participate in the Home Study Process.

**For additional information,
visit our website:
mahoningkids.com**



TO REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT:

*call 24 hours/7 days
a week including
Weekends and
Holidays*



**Mahoning County
Children Services**

222 West Federal St. • 4th Floor • Youngstown, OH 44503

330.941.8888
mahoningkids.com



Accredited by the Council On Accreditation



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Mahoning County Children Services

The public agency mandated by Federal and State law to provide child welfare and protective services for abused, neglected and dependent children in Mahoning County.

STRENGTH BASED AND FAMILY CENTERED:

Children Services' main priority is to ensure that children are safe. Children Services believe that the best place for a child is with family as long as the child is safe. Children Services also believes that every family has strengths to build upon. When a child is not safe, the Agency works with the family to make positive changes through supportive services to help promote family resiliency.

WHY CHILDREN STAY WITH THEIR FAMILIES:

Research shows that children develop better when they remain with their birth families. Children Services will do everything possible to keep families together. When parents cannot provide a safe home for their children, Children Services look for relatives or individuals who have a relationship with the family to help (Kinship Care). Approximately 97% of active cases, children are able to remain with their families.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Ohio's public Children Services agencies are required to assess and investigate reports of abuse, neglect, or dependency. Children Services complete an assessment and when possible, works with the family to develop a case plan identifying services necessary to reduce risk to the child and prevent the abuse or neglect from occurring again. In instances where it is found that children cannot remain safe in their own homes, Children Services works with the local juvenile court system to remove children and find an alternative safe placement preferably with relatives.

WHAT IS ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY?

Abuse is defined as an act perpetrated against a child which causes injury. Abuse can be physical, sexual or psychological.

Neglect is defined as the failure of a parent or guardian(s) to provide for the necessary sustenance, education or medical needs of a child (this can be due to refusal to provide, faults, habits or abandonment on the part of the parent or guardian).

Dependency is defined as a child who is homeless, destitute or without adequate parental care, through no fault of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian.

OUR MISSION

"Mahoning County Children Services in partnership with the community, is committed to being the leader in protecting children while helping to preserve families."

Who should report Child Abuse or Neglect?

Anyone who suspects that a child is being abused or neglected should make a referral to their local Children Services Agency.

HOW IS CHILDREN SERVICES FUNDED?

The majority of Mahoning County Children Services programs and services are funded by the generous community support from our local operating levy funding. Other funding is a combination of state and federal sources.

Agency Services

FAMILY/KINSHIP CARE: When parents cannot provide a safe home for their children, Children Services seeks relatives or individuals who have a relationship or connection with the family to help.

FOSTER CARE: When Children Services cannot place children with a family member (Kinship Care), children may stay in foster care with Foster Caregivers. Foster Caregivers are individuals who are specially trained and licensed to care for children who must live away from home. Foster Caregivers provide children with a loving, safe and secure home until the child is able to safely return home.

RESIDENTIAL CARE: Some children require a higher level of care due to moderate to severe behavioral and mental health issues. Residential care centers are the highest level of care in child welfare.

ADOPTION: Children Services provides permanency planning and placement of children into adoptive homes who are in the Agency's permanent custody.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES:

Provided to youth ages 14-21 who are in foster care. Services include developing daily living skills, healthcare and financial planning, job readiness, vocational development and career counseling.

