



**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on behalf of Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board
June 11, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hillyer, and members of the committee. My name is Bryan Stout and I am with the Department of Children and Youth, administrative agents for the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF). Joining me today is Eric Gonzales of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the OCTF Board.

Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board (OCTF), statutorily created in 1984, is dedicated exclusively to funding primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention programs and services. The mission of OCTF is to prevent child abuse and neglect through investing in strong communities, healthy families, and safe children. It is our vision that Ohio's children grow and thrive within empowered families and nurturing communities. OCTF also serves as the Ohio Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.

OCTF is a quasi-public entity governed by a board of 15 members representing a broad public-private partnership. Eight members represent the citizens of Ohio and are appointed by the Governor, four members are legislators from their respective chambers and caucuses, and three members are agency directors (from the departments of Health, Children and Youth, and Mental Health and Addiction Services) or their designees.

Current OCTF board membership is diverse in expertise and interest and includes representatives from the following fields: education, legal, social work, and medical communities; the voluntary sector; and professional providers of child abuse and child neglect services. The board supervises the policies and programs of OCTF and the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) serves as OCTF's administrative agent for legal, human resources, procurement, and budgeting, among other functions.

OCTF is governed by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) sections 3109.13 through 3109.179. The core purpose of OCTF's activities within its six year strategic plan revolve around further enhancing OCTF's collaborations and partnerships, both on the local level and statewide level, as OCTF continues to be a leader in funding child abuse and neglect prevention services and advocating for national, state and local policies that advance the development of a diverse and sustainable child maltreatment prevention infrastructure. This purpose guides OCTF's operational, programmatic and fiscal decisions as we work in concert with our state and local partners to achieve our mission while becoming a state and national leader in building strong communities and increasing the health and well-being of Ohio's children and families.

OCTF receives revenue from three sources: public dedicated funds received through vital statistic fees collected at the local level on certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates and divorce decrees and dissolutions (~\$4M annually reflected in 1980 Fund - state special revenue); federal funding, including a federal grant requiring designation as Ohio's lead agency for the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant (~\$1.8M annual award, plus

the addition of one-time ARPA funds), the five-year Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families grant (award of ~\$2.71M over 5-years), and the five-year Family Support through Primary Prevention Grant (award of ~\$3.75M over 5-years) (all supported via 3D30 Fund - federal); and private funding as a result of OCTF's ability to solicit and accept donations from private sources as well as engage in public-private partnerships (reflected in fund 1980 per statute). OCTF also received a \$1,000,000 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families earmark beginning in state fiscal year 2020 through state fiscal year 2024.

OCTF revenues from fees and grants are invested in prevention programs at the local and state level by providing funding to private and public entities to fund child abuse and child neglect prevention programs and services such as parenting education and support, which includes investments in the Triple P Positive Parenting Program and other evidence-based child maltreatment prevention models, youth mentoring services, and training for caregivers and professionals regarding their role in preventing abuse and protecting Ohio's children. Each year, OCTF coordinates a public awareness campaign for April child abuse prevention month, as well as leading awareness efforts year-round. In the last biennium, OCTF services reached nearly 25,000 parents, caregivers, youth and professionals across all efforts, including the regional prevention councils.

OCTF has continued to maintain strong partnerships and collaborations with national, state, and local entities, including Ohio state agencies represented on the OCTF board.

With the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) serving as OCTF's administrative agent, OCTF also supports all primary prevention programming for DCY Child Welfare and is supporting efforts as it relates to prevention services as part of the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act for children services involved families.

OCTF and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) collaborate on multiple initiatives, including the child fatality report and Ohio's Injury Prevention Partnership, which are overseen by ODH. In addition, OCTF utilizes a shared service approach with ODH to invoicing county registrars for birth certificate and death certificate fees owed to each of us.

OCTF and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services coordinate on various efforts to ensure our agencies are not duplicating prevention efforts at the local level. As possible, we collaborate to share data, which informs the develop of needs assessments which are utilized to support decisions pertaining to programming through the regional councils.

OCTF is very grateful to Chairperson Kunze, Senator Hicks-Hudson, Representative White, and Representative Baker for their continued service on the OCTF board and for their leadership on numerous OCTF issues and initiatives.

We respectfully recommend the continuation of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board. The OCTF Board has been in existence for 40 years and has elevated its standing and Ohio's commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect, both as a national expert and innovative entity pertaining to child maltreatment prevention.

Chair Wilkin and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the OCTF Board. I'd be happy to answer any questions.