

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO
POST SUMMIT PLANNING FORM

COUNTY NAME: Montgomery

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As they relate to the safety, well-being and permanent home environments for children in your county, please answer the following:

What are the top five issues affecting the safety, well-being and permanent home environments of children?

- Increasing poverty level of region / transition of job market
- Increasing risks placed on family stability
- Lack of stable affordable housing
- Mental health and health care
- Lack of appropriate parenting skills / parenting responsibilities

What are the top five strengths and / or resources in your community?

- Collaborative spirit as evidenced through:
 - Human Services Levy and shared funding
 - Juvenile Justice System / Intervention Center
 - Prevention strategies and early intervention throughout Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and other support services
 - Local commitment of Family and Children First Council including Agency Directors and Service Brokers
 - Intersystem Collaborative Assessment Team (ICAT)

What are the top five challenges facing your community?

- Increasing poverty level of region
- Inconsistent judicial philosophy and training
- Inconsistent priorities and funding with tight budget constraints
- Agency limitation and barriers that cause gaps in services for families
- Impacts of job loss, increasing poverty and home foreclosures
- Access to affordable health care

What are the top five most-needed services for children and families?

- Mental health
- Substance abuse treatment
- Violence prevention and outreach / sex offender programs
- Economic empowerment / responsibility
- Family reunification supports / Building on family strengths and capacity

What action steps will be taken locally to develop needed services or address local challenges?

- Review of current service options and system approaches
- Engage systems in prioritization / planning efforts
- Identify methods producing desired results
- Review and identify local policies, state regulations and procedures that negatively impact children and families within and across systems
- Identifying and eliminating barriers

Beyond Funding, what action does the county need from the state to help the county achieve its action plan?

- Help at state and federal level to reform laws and policies
- Sharing of data across systems and agencies to better serve the needs of children and families
- Alignment of laws, policies and penalties for child support to better meet the needs of families and parent-child relationships
- Movement toward open adoption laws in Ohio
- Elimination of barriers and improved efficiencies
- Increased collaboration and communication
- Addressing improvements in the education system
- Access to best practice approaches / models / pilot initiatives and technical assistance