



Stark County Job & Family Services

EMBRACING CHANGE

2017 Annual Report

Thank you to a dedicated and professional Job and Family Services staff. Your work plays a vital role in the Stark County community. It impacts families from training; employing; and partnering with parents to provide protection, clothing, and feeding vulnerable children. You are a difference maker!

Stark County Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton

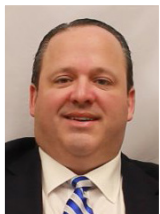


I want to express my gratitude to Job and Family Services for another great year of service to our Stark County community. JFS often finds itself having to navigate through shifting mandates and fluctuating funding streams. Fortunately, the leadership sets a tone of hard work and resilience that resonates throughout the entire team at JFS. We have another exciting year ahead, as well. The purchase of the Midtown building provides a consolidation of physical locations for JFS, promoting collaboration, while at the same time saving tax payer money. Congratulations!

Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula

Thank you to the entire team at Job and Family Services for your dedicated and competent efforts throughout the year. Your passion to help others shows and is very much appreciated by the people in Stark County who are so dependent on your services. You can be proud to be part of a team that cares and it really shows how much you care!

Stark County Commissioner Bill Smith



2017 was the beginning of the final step in the journey toward achieving a permanent home for all three divisions of Job and Family Services. After finalizing a permanent home for the Children's Services Division in 2016, the Board of Commissioners purchased the Midtown Building in December 2017 with the 2018 goal of at long last providing a combined permanent home for the Human Services and Child Support teams. This purchase and renovation will help to achieve efficiency and remove the threat of possibly having to move after each lease expires. A big thank you to each dedicated staff member in each division of Job and Family Services!

Stark County Administrator Brant Luther, Esq.

Our Mission

To partner with our customers, community and other service providers to protect children and vulnerable adults, stabilize and strengthen families, and encourage self-sufficiency and personal responsibility.

Dear Friends,

Embracing change was a recurrent theme in 2017 as we at Stark County Job and Family Services continued our work to improve the lives of children and families in our community. Our agency experienced change driven by state and federal programming, budget restraints, new ideas, and our continuing efforts to enhance efficiency and service.

Managing change is challenging, and sometimes difficult. Changes in 2017 did, however, provide opportunity for growth as we found new ways to problem solve and to achieve agency successes. In 2017 our Human Services Division was selected by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to pilot a new intake process. The division moved from requiring face-to-face intake interviews to conducting phone interviews. As a result, customers are no longer required to appear at our customer service center, or to wait in long lines for service. While this may sound like a simple exercise, the staff of nearly 250 worked countless hours to inform and educate customers and to refine processes to ensure a smooth transition to a more efficient way of doing business. Even better, our customers, many of whom struggled to find transportation to appointments, are pleased with the results.

Sometimes positive change can be as simple as taking a fresh look at all the parts and pieces of our daily work and finding new ways to make them fit together more seamlessly and efficiently. In our Children Services Division, recruitment, training and support of foster/adoptive parents, and permanency for children in foster care are extremely important. In 2017, staff carefully examined programs, processes and staffing related to fostering and adoption with the intent of refining and refreshing their work. The result has been a renewed vision and commitment to teamwork, and a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of the children and families we serve.

There are also times when change evolves naturally as research, understanding and experience lead to new thinking. Our Child Support Division continues to embrace the evolution from a punitive-to-supportive approach in child support. It was not too long ago that many believed a non-residential parent's primary role in his or her child's life was to make child support payments. Those who failed to make payments, no matter the reason, were progressively sanctioned and sometimes jailed. Current research shows children with two involved parents are far more likely to graduate from high school and to be successful. With this understanding, Child Support successfully pursued grants to develop programming that helps remove barriers and provide supports to better equip parents to pay child support and to be more involved in their children's lives.



We proudly share our 2017 journey. We are grateful to all who support our agency and we look forward to serving our community in 2018.

Sincerely,

Deborah Forkas, M.Ed
Executive Director

Human Services

For many, technology helps organize and simplify day-to-day-activities. For others, technology can be intimidating, challenging, or unavailable. Recognizing that many customers rely on phones and computers, the Human Services Division of Stark County Job and Family Services has, over the past year, worked to update systems to make it easier for customers to use technology. At the same time, staff also recognized there are customers whose needs are more comfortably met in person.

Customers with a preference for face-to-face meetings often include the elderly, for whom technology may be overwhelming, those who speak English as a second language, and those who do not have computers and phones readily available.

So, as Human Services updated its intake process, staff also considered how to make agency visits more accommodating. Discussion led to the creation of the Human Services Triage Unit, composed of a supervisor and six staff.

Triage supervisor Raelynn Barto, a 29-year Job and Family Services veteran, explains that knowledgeable, caring Triage staff are located at service windows in the Human Services Customer Service lobby. They work directly, one-on-one, with customers to assess their needs. Although most customer concerns are about applying for benefits, Triage staff assists customers with all Human Services programs and services. They rarely need to refer a customer elsewhere to have their questions answered.

Two additional Triage staff are housed in offices so customers can meet with them privately to work through more complex, time-intensive issues. Barto says that for the very elderly, for example, the lobby can be intimidating and uncomfortable. She adds that for those who speak English as a second language, it is very helpful to go into a private office where the worker can use a phone translation system to aid the customer.

Barto explains, a customer may be taken to an office because of physical needs such as being in a wheelchair. Lobby counters are designed for standing height and are challenging for the wheelchair-bound. An office where a customer in a wheelchair can comfortably sit across the desk from a worker provides a much better experience.

Barto says her staff focuses on being patient and compassionate. She adds they are good listeners who strive to provide excellent customer service. Barto encourages staff to be kind and to make sure customers leave at peace because they have gotten answers to their questions. The Triage unit works every day to help customers overcome frustration, to provide answers to their questions, and to humanize what can be a difficult process.

In a recent lobby services survey, a customer reported she appreciates coming into the Human Services lobby where she can speak directly to one person who can answer all her questions. She said she likes knowing that she will be seen quickly and that she will not be put “on hold” or transferred to someone else. She noted that staff are always polite and knowledgeable and she can accomplish everything she needs to do in a single trip. She added that she enjoys talking to a person who is a good listener, takes care of her “right then and there” and helps her to get good results.

In discussing the survey, Barto recalled a young woman whom she helped very early in her Job and Family Services career. She shared that now, nearly 30 years later, she still occasionally sees the former client in the community. This woman always makes it a point to thank Barto for her help and kindness at a time when she was really struggling.

With a smile, Barto says that showing customers respect and helping them have peace of mind are a very important part of the Triage Unit’s daily work. “After all,” Barto adds, “people need people and it is our job to make that happen!”

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Human Services

Susan Lenigar, MBA
Deputy Director,
Human Services Division

Staff: 237

Human Services provides:

- Food Assistance (FA) Program, which is issued to the Ohio Direction Card for food purchasing assistance
- Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance
- Medicaid for the aged, blind and disabled
- Nursing Home Medicaid and Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers
- Medicare Premium Assistance programs
- Medicaid for families, pregnant women, children and expansion adults
- Non-Emergency Transportation (NET)
- At-Risk Pregnancy Services
- HealthCheck
- Breast & Cervical Cancer Project
- Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS)
- Child Care programs

The following data is based on 2017 monthly averages.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

47,551 individuals received food assistance. Based on the 2016 U.S. Census count of 373,612, this is about 1 of every 8 people in Stark County.

Medicaid

94,389 According to the Ohio Department of Medicaid: individuals received Medicaid assistance. Assistance programs included Medicaid for the aged, blind and disabled, and the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) programs, which cover families, children, pregnant women, and adults with Medicaid expansion.

17,859 individuals received Medicaid for the aged, blind and disabled. This number includes approximately 3,700 individuals eligible only for Medicare Premium Assistance.

76,530 individuals received MAGI Medicaid, This number also includes approximately 1,150 individuals receiving coverage through the foster care system.

Ohio Works First Cash Assistance

3,406 individuals received Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance.

686 work-required OWF recipients were referred into the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) between July 1 and December 31, 2017. CCMEP is meant to provide more intensive service and support to young adults, ages 16-to-24, as they work to become employable and/or self-sufficient. SCJFS partners with OhioMeansJobs in facilitating the program.

- 154 individuals who participated in the Human Services on-site Job Club became employed within 90 days of attending the program.
- 273 individuals received Disability Financial Assistance (DFA). DFA was a cash assistance program that ended in December 2017. It was intended for individuals with pending applications for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), who were determined to be disabled by the State.
- 3,463 children cared for through publicly funded child care.

It is estimated that in 2017, Human Services Division programs contributed nearly \$826 million to the Stark County community. Local grocers, clinics, hospitals, and retailers benefited from these services:

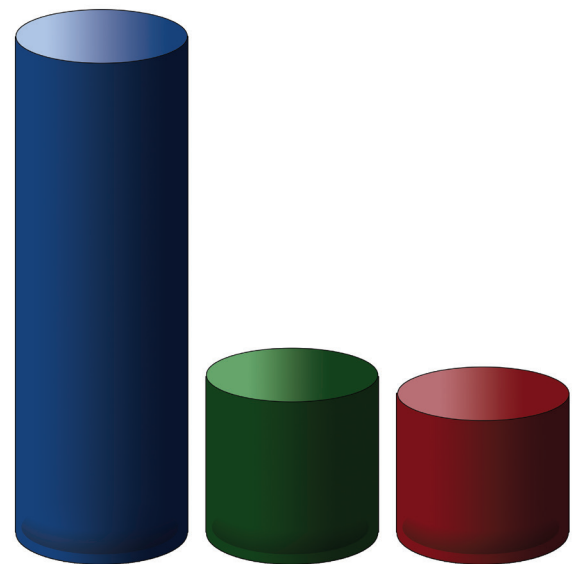
Medicaid Disbursements	\$740,925,487*
Total Food Assistance Disbursements	\$63,297,840
OWF Cash Assistance Disbursements	\$7,751,611
Disability Assistance Disbursements	\$263,037
Child Care Assistance (approx.)	\$13,704,468

Percentage of Stark County population participating in selected public assistance programs based on an estimated population of 373,612:

Families below Poverty Level	13.2%	(1 in 7.5 people)**
Food Assistance Program	12.7%	(1 in 7.5 people)
OWF Cash Assistance	1%	(1 in 106 people)
Disability Assistance	.07%	(1 in 1,449 people)

*From Ohio Department of Medicaid

**From www.census.gov



Wages & Benefits	\$12,089,241	62%
Program Costs	\$3,863,658	20%
Operating Expenses	\$3,474,335	18%

Children Services

Can you remember a time in your childhood when you wanted something so badly for Christmas you couldn't think about anything else? For many of us, that all-consuming quest was for a toy we knew we had to have. For Ashley, her Christmas quest for 12 of her 18 years was to find a loving family to adopt her and to love her as their own.

Because her biological parents were unable to care for her, Ashley came into the permanent custody of Stark County Job and Family Service's Children Services Division when she was six. Over the next 12 years, Ashley lived in multiple foster homes, in part she explains, because she didn't always get along well with others and she caused problems.

Even with changing placements, Ashley, who is strong-willed and determined, never lost hope that she would find the family she was meant to have. Ivy, who became her case worker when Ashley was in elementary school, smiles when she tells of Ashley interviewing numerous adults as potential adoptive parents, and promising them they wouldn't forget her.

With every Christmas that came during her placement, Ashley would hope with all her heart to find her adoptive family. With each passing year, Ashley feared her chances of adoption were decreasing. But, Ashley says, Ivy never gave up on her dream and told her, "As long as I work with you, Ashley, I will continue to look for an adoptive family."

Ashley and Ivy share a wonderful bond and Ivy says Ashley has never been disrespectful to her. Ashley says of their relationship, "Ivy is strong and she would never give up on me. No matter how hard I tried to push her buttons, Ivy would not give up."

Through their stubborn determination, Ashley and Ivy persevered and eventually Ashley opened up and shared her gentle heart with Ivy. Ivy says the beauty of their relationship is captured in one of their shared experiences. Ivy explained she was pregnant with her daughter and feeling a bit overwhelmed. Ashley

sensed Ivy was not herself and wanted to show support the way Ivy always did for her.

Ashley had a very special bead that looked like a large diamond. She strung the "diamond" with other beads, placed it on a key ring for Ivy and suggested she hang it over the baby's crib because everyone knows that diamonds are a girl's best friend. Ivy hung the gift from her car mirror as a daily reminder of Ashley's care and concern. There it stayed, week after week, until one day when Ashley was experiencing a particularly difficult time.

Ivy took Ashley to her car and pointed to the diamond hanging from the mirror. She said to Ashley, "You gave this to me when I was going through a challenging time. Now you are having difficulty and it is time for me to give the diamond back to you." Ashley smiled when Ivy finished the story and shared that she still has the key ring and keeps it in a special place.

It appears that Ivy and the diamond worked their magic. This past January, Ashley celebrated two milestones. She turned 18 and her foster mom, whom she loves and respects, adopted her. Ashley says of her adoptive mother, "She is really a good mom! She is loving, outgoing, caring and will help anyone in need." Ashley says she hopes her mom knows how grateful she is for her adoption. She says that not only did she find her perfect mom, she became part of a family that includes five adopted siblings ranging in age from 12 to 21.

Ashley is very happy to have found her forever home. Although her journey to adoption has been very long, Ashley is proud that, with Ivy's help, she never gave up. Ashley would also like to share a thought with those who might be considering adoption. "You might think a foster child's history is rocky, but look past it and give the child a chance. Your past does not define you. You are who you are today." Wise words from a young lady who had waited the longest to be adopted of all the children currently in permanent custody in Stark County.

people can change



Children Services

Nedra Petro MPA , LSW
Deputy Director,
Children Services Division

Staff: 184

The Children Services Division serves the county's children at risk of abuse or neglect, and their families. Children Services is legally responsible for taking, and investigating, reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency; and acting to protect children at risk of harm.

The Division also takes reports of suspected abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults 60 and older. In 2016, SCJFS contracted with Coleman Professional Services to provide services.

Children Services recruits and trains foster and adoptive families, prepares children for adoption, arranges for post-adoption services to families, and provides independent living skills for older teens.



Report Line

7,551 calls to the Report Line resulted in 3,506 cases requiring assistance or intervention

Assistance

415 of the 3,506 cases resulted in assistance to families
Of these:

- 235 were calls of families in need of services
- 180 were calls about children who were determined to be dependent

Intervention

3,091 of the 3,506 cases required intervention, using one of the following approaches.

Traditional Response

1,242 (40%) of the 3,091 were responded to using the traditional response.

Of these calls:

- 43.3% calls reporting suspected neglect.
- 29.9% calls reporting suspected physical abuse.
- 24.6% calls reporting suspected sexual abuse.
- 2.2% calls reporting suspected emotional maltreatment.

Alternative Response

Alternative Response (AR), an approach that provides for a second, or alternative, pathway of response to reports of alleged abuse/neglect, was initiated in April 2012. In 2017, 1,849 cases (60% of the 3,091 cases) were responded to using the AR approach.

Ongoing Supportive Services

In an average month, 235 families received case management and supportive services. Children who could not remain safely in their own homes were provided placement services. Below are the average number of children per month in placement services:

- 122 Agency Foster Care
- 85 Purchased Foster Care
- 2 Group Home Care
- 8 Residential Placement
- 117 Kinship or Relative Home

Transitional Youth Services

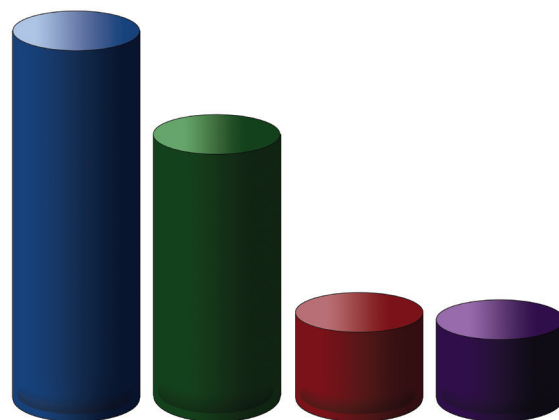
- 151 youth received independent living services.
- 31 previously emancipated youth received services.

Foster Care/Adoption

- 166 licensed foster families (average per month)
- 77 finalized adoptions

Adult Protective Services

SCJFS contracted with Coleman Professional Services to provide services. In 2017, there were 412 new cases of elder abuse/neglect or exploitation.



Wages & Benefits	\$11,691,833	46%
Program Costs	\$7,970,256	32%
Operating Expenses	\$3,195,482	13%
Renovation	\$2,407,321	9%

Child Support

If asked to describe himself, 36-year-old Wil might say he is hardworking, funny, a father, and a man who is wiser now than in his youth. Wil dropped out of school and became a father at 19. Without a diploma, finding a decent job was difficult. He didn't make much money, but Wil always looked for the next job that might offer better opportunities.

Wil was 21, when his daughter's mother contacted Stark County Job and Family Services Child Support Division to obtain child support. Based on income, Wil was ordered to make monthly payments of \$51, but he paid sporadically as he struggled with employment. At 22, Wil lost his license because he was behind in support. He was convicted of a non-violent felony and placed on probation. Wil committed to successfully complete probation and support his daughter.

Eleven years ago, Wil again became a father and added support payments for his son. At 25, Wil was hard-working, but not highly paid. He was a dropout, had a non-violent felony conviction and paid monthly child support for two children that totaled \$700.

Wil earned his General Education diploma in 2011, but still lacked job security. He faced lay-offs and job loss when the economy was on the down-swing. Moving from job-to-job, Wil's wages decreased, but his child support remained the same. After paying support, he was left with about \$800 a month to make house, truck and utility payments, purchase gas for his daily round-trip to Akron, buy groceries and take care of other expenses.

Wil struggled. He lost his house and truck. He was behind in child support and was overwhelmed. Wil realized he needed help. He understood his support payments were set when he was earning more, but they now amounted to half his income. In 2017, Wil contacted Child Support about lowering his payments. He received a letter inviting him to come in for an appointment to talk about getting help through the Right Path program.

Wil met with Charlee Davenport, a 15-year Child Support Division employee who was in her fifth year as a Right Path case manager. One conversation with Mrs. Davenport convinced Wil he was in good hands. Wil says that when he met with her about Right Path, Mrs. Davenport really talked to him, answered his questions, and explained how things worked and why.

Mrs. Davenport recalls that Wil was initially a little uneasy and not very trusting. She recognized, though, that Wil was very determined and committed to resolving his problems, and that he was a good candidate for Right Path.

She and Wil talked about Right Path and how it helped non-custodial parents in need of skills and education to better compete for jobs. Mrs. Davenport told Wil about parenting classes offered through Right Path, and about the agency's work with Community Legal Aid to help expunge non-violent felony offenses which are often an employment barrier. She explained that if Wil successfully completed the four-week Right Path program, he would qualify to have his support payments reviewed and, potentially, reduced to be more in line with his income.



Wil believed Mrs. Davenport had his best interests at heart. In 2017, he enrolled in, and completed, the Right Path program. Through Right Path, Wil expunged his criminal record and polished his resume and interviewing skills. His support payments were adjusted. Wil is now working in a job he likes and he is making his child support payments. Wil is back on the Right Path!

Talking with Mrs. Davenport about how his life has changed, Wil smiled and said, “I hate to make you busy every day, but I do tell people all the time to ‘call Mrs. Davenport’ when they are overwhelmed, and I keep encouraging people to find out about the Right Path program. It really can make a difference!”

Child Support

Rob Pierson, MA
Deputy Director,
Child Support Division

Staff: 77

The Child Support Division is committed to providing services which include:

- Establishing paternity and support
- Issuing orders for medical support
- Modifying and enforcing support orders
- Monitoring the collection and disbursement of support payments

Community Outreach

- Pro-Football Hall of Fame Winter Event
- Day Out with Dad Football Camp at HOF
- Fishing Rodeo
- HOF Community Parade
- Parenting Time Order Program
- Expungement/CQE Information Clinics

Number of Child Support Cases

31,000

Collections

\$60,444,788, and of this, \$2,311,119 collected at payment window

Incentive Performance Categories

Paternity Establishment	99.71% (highest to date)
Support Order Establishment	90.53% (highest to date)
Collections on Current Support	73.15%
Collections on Arrears	67.79%

Cost Effectiveness

\$11.21 collected for each operations dollar spent (state average: \$6.51)

Significant Statistics

454	paternity cases scheduled for DNA testing
1,231	cases referred for Support Establishment
2,793	court hearings by Legal Department
68,218	phone calls received in Customer Service
12,453	customers seen in the CSEA Lobby

Right Path for Fathers Partnership Grant

CSEA completed a five-year, \$2.3 million, federal grant to assist long-term unemployed, non-custodial parents in need of skills/education to compete for employment. Unexpended dollars were approved to fund a sixth year. Participants are referred to programs at Goodwill and Stark County Community Action Agency. Early Childhood Resource Center provides parenting classes. Domestic Violence Project Inc. ensures safe delivery of services to families. Of those completing the program, 79.9% found employment.

PJAC/New Directions in Child Support Grant

A \$2.29 million, five-year Procedural Justice Informed Alternative to Contempt (PJAC) federal grant, awarded in 2016, funds an

alternative to civil contempt for non-custodial parents not making payments. It provides services to overcome barriers for non-payment of support, including programs to assist parents seeking employment.

Expungement/Certificate for Qualification of Employment (CQE) Program

CSEA, Community Legal Aid, Stark County Family Court, and Stark County Fatherhood Coalition collaborate on an Expungement/CQE program for parents with felony convictions who seek employment. CQE works to remove criminal conviction barriers and, since the program began in August 2014, 57 expungements and 23 CQEs have been completed.

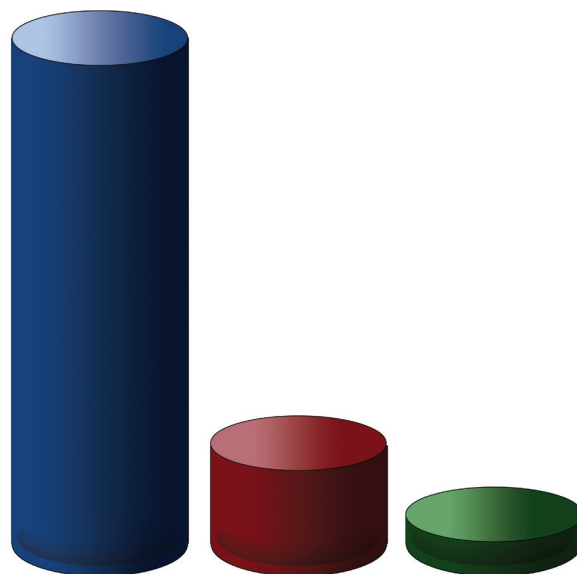
Community Outreach through Fatherhood Coalition

CSEA is a key member of the Stark County Fatherhood Coalition which encourages responsible fatherhood. Members recognize parents' emotional support of their children is as important as their financial support. Members served as volunteers for the: National Day to Read, HOF Enshrinement Festival, Canton Parks "Trunk -or-Treat", and Fathers' Walk Your Child to School Day at area elementary schools with 1,737 fathers and 2,128 children participating.

Through TANF/PRC funding four SARTA buses were "wrapped" with pictures of fathers and children and the message Great Dads Spend Time with Their Kids!

Parenting Time Order Program

CSEA received a two-year THRIVE grant to fund a free Parenting Time Order program in partnership with Community Legal Aid. This is the only CSEA program in Ohio that helps non-custodial parents establish and enforce parenting time orders in court. Legal Aid approved 22 applications submitted by CSEA.



Wages & Benefits	\$4,737,753	76%
Operating Expenses	\$1,073,306	17%
Program Costs	\$398,935	7%

Agency Expenditures

Human Services Division

Wages	8,300,813
Benefits	3,788,429
Books/Periodicals	483
Contracts	336,554
Countywide Indirect	117,874
Data Processing	109,975
FAET Participant Allowance	66,218
Fraud Awareness	1,947
PRC/Auto Repair	42,648
PRC/Job Related	133,423
PRC/Parenting Skills	187,446
PRC/SEP	222,800
PRC/Work Allowance	104,800
Reimbursements	
Special Projects/Dues	16,339
Rent	464,622
Shared Costs	1,705,518
Supplies	28,583
TANF/Bus Passes/Fuel Cards	58,200
TANF Bus Wrap	99,840
TANF/CSEA Expungement	15,784
TANF/Summer Youth	132,855
TANF/Work Experience Program	9,871
TANF ECRC Supplies	13,902
Transportation	
Medical/Healthcheck/PRS/SSI	2,621,983
Travel/Mileage/Education	37,607
Funds Transferred to Child Support	808,741

TOTALS
\$19,427,254

Children Services Division

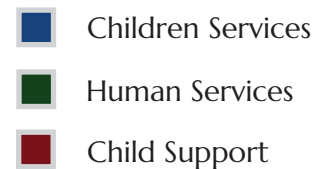
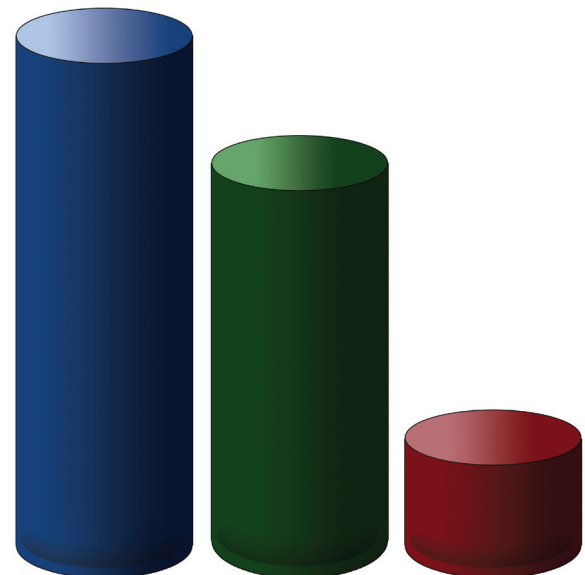
Wages	8,034,275
Benefits	3,444,820
Wendy's Wonderful Kids	
Wages & Benefits	160,889
Mental Health & Recovery	
Services Wages & Benefits	51,850
Wendy's Wonderful Kids Contracts	30,186
Child and Family	
Visitation Center Grant	20,968
Contracts	405,622
Shared Costs	1,758,249
Countywide Indirect	280,845
Purchased Foster Homes	2,760,149
Residential Treatment	609,559
Agency Foster Homes	1,184,924
Group Homes	158,600
Foster Children Clothing	176,974
Foster Children Medical	6,725
Adoption Services/Home Studies	38,174
Advertising/Recruitment	32,035
Bus Passes	106,625
Child Abuse Prosecution Unit	328,821
Communications	82,354
County Share Adoption Subsidy	426,059
Data Processing	45,119
Emergency Services	539,827
Foster Parent Training Stipends	65,340
Independent Living	147,661
Kinship Permancy	
Incentive Program	78,675
Maintenance/Utilities	79,125
Membership Dues	27,792
Mileage	332,284
Miscellaneous	123,868
Non-Recurring Adoption	63,481
Office Supply	30,142

PASS	181,501
Primary Partner Program/PRT	29,259
Professional Liability Insurance	110,100
Public Records	59,295
Reimbursement	51,286
Renovations	2,407,321
Rent	136,422
Service Review Committee	8,834
State Adoption Subsidy	121,019
Tax Settlement Fees	157,305
Travel and Training	52,753
Work Related Daycare	317,782
TOTALS	\$25,264,892

Child Support Division

Wages	2,964,167
Benefits	1,365,600
Right Path Program	
Wages & Benefits	236,533
New Direction Program	
Wages & Benefits	126,570
THRIVE Grant Wages & Benefits	64,974
Right Path Program Contracts	180,036.84
New Direction Contracts	2,700
THRIVE Program Contracts	8,714
Countywide Indirect Costs	122,123
Data Processing	51,597
IV-D Contracts	137,698
Legal Services	438
Miscellaneous	73,930
Rent	209,609
Shared Costs	657,752
Travel and Training	7,552
TOTALS	\$6,209,993

2017 Agency Operating Totals by Division



Stark County Job & Family Services
2017 Total Expenditures
\$50,902,140

Stark County Job & Family Services

2017 Event Calendar

JANUARY

National Reading
Day Event

FEBRUARY

Pro Football HOF Winter
Event for Dads & Kids

MARCH

National Social Worker
Month

Spring Grapevine

APRIL

Child Abuse Prevention
Month

Child Abuse Prevention
Month First Friday Event

Wear Blue Campaign

MAY

29th Annual
Foster Parent
Recognition Banquet

JUNE

Expungement/CQE Clinics

Day Out with Dad Football
Camp at Pro Football HOF

Fishing Rodeo

Project KARE RUMO
Graduation Celebration

Summer Grapevine

JULY

HOF Parade

Rubber Ducks Foster
Parent Event

Child Support Fishing Rodeo

Foster Parent
Fishing Derby

AUGUST

Golf Scramble

Back to School Bowling

School Supplies
Assistance

Child Support Awareness
Month

SEPTEMBER

Job Expo

Father's Walk Your Child
to School Day

Fall Grapevine

OCTOBER

Fall Frolic Event
for Foster Parents

NOVEMBER

National
Adoption Month

Adoption Celebration
Event

2017 Virtual Heart Gallery

DECEMBER

Project KARE:
Gifts for Kids

Children's Network
Holiday Party

Winter Grapevine

Executive Team

Deborah Forkas, M. Ed
Executive Director

Mary Ann Abel
Communications Administrator

Jerry Coleman, JD
Assistant Deputy Director,
Legal Services Division

Brian Kandel, MBA
Deputy Director, Finance

Susan Lenigar, MBA
Deputy Director,
Human Services Division

Kelly Lockhart, M.Ed, LSW
Deputy Director,
Human Resources & Support
Services

Nedra Petro, MPA, LSW
Deputy Director,
Children Services Division

Rob Pierson, MA
Deputy Director,
Child Support Division

County Commissioners

Janet Weir Creighton, President

Richard Regula, Vice President

Bill Smith, Member

County Administrator

Brant Luther, Esq.

Planning Committee

The Stark County Family Services
Planning Committee provides
recommendations to Stark County
Job and Family Services for the most
effective and efficient delivery of
service.

Cynthia Burnell
Chairperson

John Petit
Vice Chair

Erica Wilson-Domer
Secretary

Deborah Forkas
SCJFS Executive Director

Mary Ann Abel
Chanda Coblenz
Laura Moline
Evelyn Moore
Kay Port
Beverly Proctor-Donald
Gloria Sanders
Kenneth Thomas
Diane Thompson

Contact Information

Children Services Division

402 2nd Street SE
Canton, OH 44702

Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:
330-455-KIDS

Foster/Adopt
330-451-8789

Child Support Division

122 Cleveland Ave. NW
P.O. Box 21337
Canton, OH 44701

Customer Service
330-451-8930

Human Services Division

221 3rd Street SE
Canton, OH 44702

Customer Service Call Center
330-451-8861

New Applications
330-451-8500

Application Line
1-844-640-OHIO

JOBS/Child Care
330-452-4661

Executive Offices

221 3rd Street SE
Canton, OH 44702

