

Key Values

- Services and supports are **individualized** and delivered using a **family-centered** and **strength-based** approach; **natural supports** are strongly drawn upon.
- Services and supports are responsive to **cultural, racial and ethnic characteristics** of the individual being served.
- Service and support **outcomes are tracked and evaluated**.
- Available funding **resources are fully utilized and integrated**.
- Home and community-based services are preferred; utilizing the **least restrictive environment** that is possible and appropriate.
- Specialized treatment and services are **evidence-based or best practice**.
- Services and supports are delivered in a **collaborative, team based approach** (duplicative or competing efforts among agencies are reduced or eliminated).
- **Families and youth are fully involved in decision making** and are provided with **advocacy** and support options. Engaging older, **transition aged youth** is especially critical in helping them gain independence and gradually reduce reliance on formal systems.
- **Early identification and early intervention** is emphasized.
- Family Team meetings are **scheduled at convenient times and locations**.



**Summit County
Family & Children First
Council**

Council Members

Summit County Family & Children First Council is comprised of family advocates and executive leadership from the following community and government entities:

Akron Children's Hospital
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Akron Police Department
Akron Public Schools
Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.
Child Guidance & Family Solutions
Greenleaf Family Center
Kent State University
Ohio Department of Youth Services
Ohio Part C Early Intervention
Summit County ADM Board
Summit County Children Services
Summit County Community Partnership
Summit County Developmental Disabilities
Summit County Executive's Office
Summit County Job & Family Services
Summit County Juvenile Court
Summit County Public Health
Summit Educational Service Center
The Arc of Ohio
United Way of Summit County



For more information

Janice Houchins, LISW-S, Director
Summit County Family & Children First Council
jhouchins@schd.org
330-926-5671



Summit County Public Health serves as administrative agent for the
Summit County Family & Children First Council.

Summit County Family & Children First Council



*Together. Coordinating Systems and
Services for Summit County Families,
Since 1993.*

Special Focus:

*A Referral Guide for Professionals
Serving Families with Children
Involved in Multiple Systems of Care*



Summit County Family & Children First Council
1867 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313
Phone: 330-926-5671

About Us

Summit County Family & Children First Council (FCFC) is a partnership of state and local government, community agencies and families that work together to promote a system of care for families with children **ages birth through 21**.

Collectively, the council develops, implements and evaluates coordinated responses to issues pertaining to families and children at both the system and direct service levels.

Help Us, Help You

Summit County Family & Children First Council specializes in supporting area professionals (**case managers, court workers, educators, faith-based community leaders, front-line social service agency staff members, health care providers, mental health professionals, social workers**) who are serving families with youth who have complex needs; such as:

- Youth who are involved in multiple systems (behavioral health, child welfare, developmental disabilities and juvenile justice); yet, continue to struggle.
- Youth who have aggressive/violent behaviors that continue to escalate and require repeated hospitalizations and/or deepened levels of system involvement.
- Youth who have needs that outweigh the resources of one or more system.
- Youth and families who have encountered barriers within a system and/or between systems.
- Youth and families who have difficulty accessing the needed services and/or supports.
- Youth and families who require assistance with cross-system navigation.

Programs, services and funding opportunities featured throughout this brochure are designed to support Summit County child and family serving agency staff members, families and youth.

Programs, Services and Funding

WrapAround Service Coordination: a cross-system, team-based approach to service planning and coordination of care for families with youth who are involved with multiple systems and/or at risk for out-of-home placement.

WrapAround Service Coordination is not meant to take the place of traditional case management offered by community agencies; but rather, is meant to bring together all those working to support the family and utilize a team approach to ensure that services are aligned, coordinated and streamlined.

A neutral Summit County FCFC Family Team Facilitator guides participants through the following phases:

Phase One: Engagement

- Summit County FCFC Family Team Facilitator explains the process to the family.
- Family shares concerns, needs, hopes & dreams.
- Family identifies the service providers and other family supports involved with the family.
- Immediate Crisis Stabilization Plan is developed.

Phase Two: Planning

- A team mission is developed.
- Strengths of youth and family are identified.
- Prioritized needs are identified.
- Measurable goals are established.
- Strategies/action steps to meet goals are selected.
- Responsibilities are assigned to team members.

Phase 3: Implementation

- Family Team meets regularly to review, plan, celebrate accomplishments and make adjustments, if necessary.
- Prioritized needs are identified.
- Responsibilities are assigned to team members.

Phase 4: Transition

- Plans are made for a purposeful transition out of formal WrapAround Service Coordination to a mix of formal and natural supports.
- Family Team celebrates program completion.

Case Consultation Services: provides professionals serving children and families from any Summit County agency with an opportunity to consult with members of the Summit County FCFC Service Review Collaborative (SRC) about complex family cases and brainstorm solutions from a cross-system perspective.

Flexible Funding for Community-Based Services: pooled funding offers flexible, short-term funding for ancillary community-based services and supports that contribute towards a multi-system involved youth's individualized service plan, the stabilization of a family, and/or avoidance of an out-of-home placement when no other funding supply is available.

Out-of-Home Placement Funding: pooled funding is available for residential treatment (up to 90 days) for multi-system involved youth when all other appropriate options have been exhausted, including WrapAround Service Coordination.

Cross Systems Training: an annual cross systems training series offered to child and family serving agency front line staff members in an effort to deepen their knowledge of community resources, build professional networks, and strengthen collaboration between agencies.



To Make a Referral

To download a referral packet (*Referral Form, Risk Screen and Release of Information*) for a service provided by the Summit County Family & Children First Council, please visit www.summitfcfc.org.

All completed referral packets are to be submitted to:

Janice Houchins, LISW-S, Director
Summit County Family & Children First Council
Email: jhouchins@schd.org
Fax: 330-923-6370

To confirm that a referral was received, please contact Janice Houchins directly at 330-926-5671.

*Referrals for WrapAround Service Coordination may be submitted by professionals, family members and/or young adults (self referrals). All other referrals for Summit County FCFC programming, services and funding must be submitted by qualifying professionals.