




Department of Children & Youth

Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

Annual Report

State Fiscal year 2024
(July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024)

A top-down photograph of six diverse children lying on their stomachs on a grassy lawn. They are all smiling and laughing joyfully. The children are of various ethnicities and ages, ranging from young children to teenagers. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**PROMOTING
BEST CHILD
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THROUGH SKILL
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AND EFFECTIVE
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THE OCWTP IS A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP


The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, founded in 1986, is designed as a state/county, public/private collaboration to develop and provide an array of training activities to promote mastery of the complex knowledge and skills needed to ensure protection and permanence for Ohio's abused and neglected children.

OCWTP is a partnership of four organizations:

- Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY)
- A network of eight Regional Training Centers
- Public Children Services Association of Ohio
- Ohio's University Consortium for Child and Adult Services.

For 38 years, the program has worked to promote best child welfare practices through skill development, strategic partnerships, and effective advocacy.

We are pleased to share the following highlights from our work in SFY 2024 ...



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SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The overhaul of our standardized training series, which now blends self-directed with instructor-led modules, is complete, and the new curricula for initial training for child protection caseworkers, supervisors, assessors, and foster caregivers are active. The revised series equips Ohio's child protection professionals and caregivers with the knowledge and skills needed to be competent and confident in their roles, directly contributing to the safety and well-being of the families they serve.

The Caseworker and Supervisor Core revisions prioritized offering greater opportunities for skill development and practice in key areas. For example, Ohio's Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model (CAPM) is infused throughout Caseworker and Supervisor Core 2.0, providing learners the opportunities to practice implementing or supervising the framework in a variety of scenarios.

In January 2024, the OCWTP's new Individual Training Needs Assessment (ITNA) and Individual Development Plan (IDP) processes for caseworkers and supervisors were launched. The primary purpose of the ITNA process is to connect learners to available learning interventions designed to address their priority training needs. In addition, OCWTP analyzes data to determine what needs to be offered where and how often to meet identified needs.

For the first time, the OCWTP's Regional Training Centers have full-time Caregiver Coaches for their regions. The skills required to be an equipped caregiver are complex and challenging. Coaching is a valuable tool that can help caregivers apply newly learned skills that help youth thrive in their care.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This year, OCWTP partnered with the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities to offer educational advocacy courses for caregivers, including It's My Turn, a self-determination curriculum for students with disabilities.

In partnership with DCY and court staff, the OCWTP launched Caseworker Core 2.0 for Title IV-E Juvenile Court Staff, giving these essential child protection partners access to essential resources, tools, and strategies needed to excel. This video explains this process: <https://qrs.ly/lfftwo2>.

The University Partnership Program (UPP) is part of Ohio's commitment to improving outcomes for children and families by strengthening its child welfare workforce. It is a unique and beneficial partnership among the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, 12 of Ohio's public and private university schools of social work, Ohio's University Consortium for Child and Adult Services, the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, and Ohio's 88 Public Children Service Agencies. As of 2024, the program has reached 73 (83.0%) counties through student participation in internships and 68 (77.3%) counties through student employment at agencies, for a combined impact in 79 (89.8%) of Ohio's counties.



EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

The OCWTP has invested in initiatives to facilitate meaningful and authentic engagement with those with lived experience and to advance equity.

Incorporating youth voice was key in developing the Life Skills Pathway. Pathways are a tool used by the OCWTP to help users choose their learning goals, work toward learning objectives, track their progress, and be recognized for their achievements. The Life Skills Pathway was created in collaboration with ACTION Ohio and the Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OYAB) to ensure youth voice in the planning and implementation. The youth selected the essential elements, vetted the courses, and designed the badges learners can earn by completing skill-building activities with the youth in their care. So far, 321 badges have been awarded.

The OCWTP continues to direct efforts to help Ohio address the racial disproportionality and disparity within our child welfare system. In SFY 2024, twenty-two learning sessions were offered to OCWTP staff and partners on topics such as creating psychological safety for difficult conversations.



SFY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Instructor-Led Sessions Held: 3,630

People Completing Instructor-Led Sessions: 46,967

Instructor-Led Sessions Held Online: 52%

Training Expenditures: \$1,796,546

Mean Class Size: 12.9

Preservice Sessions Held Outside Business Hours: 93.3%

Instructor-Led Sessions By Audience:

<u>Primary Audience Served</u>	<u>Number Sessions</u>	<u>Number Completions</u>	<u>Learning Hours</u>
Caregivers	1,461	20,356	37,654
Staff	1,711	21,233	123,583
Combined	458	5,378	18,144
Totals	3,630	46,967	179,381

UPP Program Statistics:

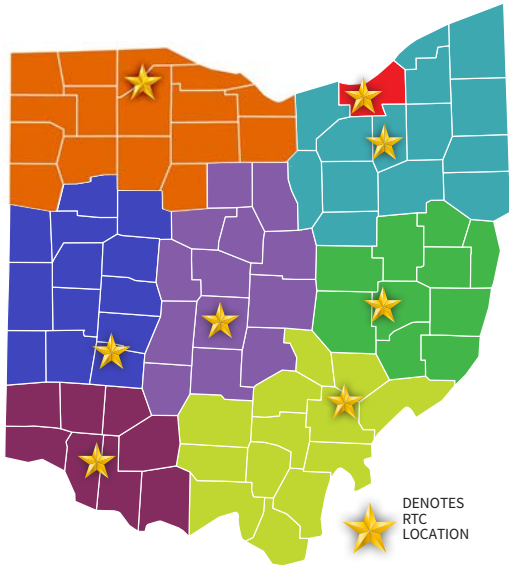
Budget: **\$2,685,100**

Participating Universities: **12**

Graduates: **87**

SFY 2024 saw an increase in people getting credit for self-directed learning. In addition to 7,848 credits earned from Foster Parent College, learners completed 21,516 credits by taking new OCWTP self-directed courses online.





Regional Training Centers

The OCWTP's eight Regional Training Centers (RTCs) are responsible for the budgeting, scheduling, registration, and administration of child-welfare related training within their regions.

RTCs identify and address the training needs of staff and caregivers by developing strong partnerships with their constituent agencies.

★ DENOTES RTC LOCATION

Contact Information

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Regional Training Centers

Northwest Ohio Regional Training Center

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North Central Ohio Regional Training Center

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Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center

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Western Ohio Regional Training Center

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Central Ohio Regional Training Center

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East Central Ohio Regional Training Center

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Instructor-Led Training Sessions

RTC	Population	Sessions	Completions	Learning Hours
NWORTC	Staff	198	2,292	15,226
	Caregivers	131	2,228	4,017
	Combined	59	725	1,859
	Total	388	5,245	21,102
NCORTC	Staff	309	3,472	19,748
	Caregivers	319	4,393	8,035
	Combined	80	1,000	3,197
	Total	708	8,865	30,980
NEORTC	Staff	325	4,586	25,966
	Caregivers	326	4,050	7,388
	Combined	109	1,263	4,560
	Total	760	9,899	37,914
WORTC	Staff	148	1,979	10,802
	Caregivers	128	1,846	3,591
	Combined	33	408	1,485
	Total	309	4,233	15,878
CORTC	Staff	343	4,387	24,120
	Caregivers	208	2,873	5,165
	Combined	68	764	2,509
	Total	619	8,024	31,793
ECORTC	Staff	98	1,019	5,519
	Caregivers	178	2,348	4,819
	Combined	33	328	1,325
	Total	309	3,695	11,663
SWORTC	Staff	192	2,560	16,307
	Caregivers	114	1,966	3,339
	Combined	24	345	1,270
	Total	330	4,871	20,916
SEORTC	Staff	94	905	5,455
	Caregivers	56	645	1,300
	Combined	44	496	1,857
	Total	194	2,046	8,612