

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Geauga Family First Council is mandated, in part, by the state legislation that created Family First Councils. Geauga Family First Council membership includes:

- City of Chardon (largest municipality in Geauga County)
- Community/Parent Representatives
- County/Local School Districts of Geauga County
- Department of Youth Services
- Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services
- Geauga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- Geauga County Commissioners
- Geauga County Job & Family Services
- Geauga County Health District
- Geauga County Juvenile Court
- Geauga United Way – Board President
- Lake-Gauga United Head Start
- Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission



REFERRAL

Typically, referrals to services and programs funded by Geauga Family First Council come from hospitals, school counselors, therapists, juvenile court, local service agencies, and parents.

Gauga Family First Council works to support and strengthen Geauga County's families by identifying children and families at risk and offering programs geared at both prevention and treatment.

Together we can do more to help our children.



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do more to help
our children.*





Geauga Family First Council is a collaborative, interagency organization designed to meet the diverse needs of families living within Geauga County through a unified system of services. The Council is strongly committed to removing barriers for multi-need children through prevention, early intervention, and an inter-system provision of services which support the entire family.

Many families within Geauga County require the support of more than one agency. As a result, over the past several years the Council has helped to develop and now funds a broad continuum of community-based services for these families.

Most of the children and adolescents served by the Geauga Family First Council are in need of assistance such as:

- **Child development/early intervention programming**
- **Health services**
- **Juvenile justice intervention**
- **Mental health and substance abuse counseling**
- **Social services**
- **Special education**

Geauga Family First Council provides the framework for county agencies to coordinate collaborative efforts. Together, Council members can take a much more pro-active approach to sharing information, discussing areas of concern that impact both families and services, and developing community solutions to identified issues.



GEAUGA FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL-FUNDED PROGRAMS

BRIDGES

A youth partial hospitalization program that offers intensive group-based therapeutic services aimed at the child who is at risk of being removed from his/her home due to emotional and/or behavioral issues. (Provided through Ravenwood Mental Health Center.)

Family Strengths

Family support and early intervention services for children, birth to four years of age, and their families who are facing complicated social, medical, or financial challenges. (Provided through Metzenbaum Center.)

Family Stability

Individualized support and flexible services geared to strengthening families and keeping children in their own homes. Family Stability services increase the involvement of parents and maintain children in the least restrictive and safest environment possible. (Provided through an interagency partnership.)

Geauga Therapeutic Youth Center

A residential therapeutic program for youth 12-17, who, because of mental health or substance dependency issues, are unable to remain in a family setting. (Provided through a partnership between Juvenile Court, the County Commissioners, and Ravenwood Mental Health Center.)

Help Me Grow

A program for pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers between the ages of birth to five years old. The goal of the program is to assure that newborns, infants, and toddlers have the best possible start in life. Services include pre-natal groups, newborn home visits, developmental screenings, and in-home family support, child development and community resource information which promote children's growth and support families. (Provided through Geauga

Job & Family Services, Geauga Health District, and Metzenbaum Center.)

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

A strategic approach to building the community's capacity to prevent and respond effectively to child/adolescent problem behaviors while promoting positive youth development.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPP)

An education/values-based program aimed at reducing teen pregnancy through an integrated series of student and parent education, skill-building, leadership and awareness programs. Content is focused on youth's positive emotional and social development as well as their physical health and safety. (Provided through Geauga Educational Service Center.)



FUNDING

There is no single local levy which supports Geauga Family First Council. Instead, the Council is composed of local organizations pooling resources and working together on behalf of Geauga County's youth and their families. This collaborative use of community resources has proven to be a more cost-effective way to serve a greater number of clients, to stretch taxpayer dollars, and to avoid duplication of services.

Local levy moneys which support Geauga Family First Council come from the following sources: Geauga County Job & Family Services; Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services; and the Geauga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. The Geauga County Juvenile Court and Geauga County Commissioners are also major contributors. In addition, state and federal dollars comprise over 40% of the budget, drawn into the county by the investment of these local dollars. Parents also contribute to the cost of services for their children.