



2018 Annual Report

Job & Family Services of Hancock County is committed to promoting the dignity and self-worth of those in need. We believe that given a choice, people prefer self-sufficiency.

Hancock County Job and Family Services is a quadruple combined agency consisting of Family Stability, Workforce Development, Children Protective Services, Child Support Enforcement, and a Business office to oversee daily operations and fiscal needs of the entire agency. Each department has a unique mission and supporting goals.



Agency Mission

Hancock County Job and Family Services (JFS) strives to develop the means to assist the citizens of Hancock County to achieve their maximum level of self-sufficiency.

Hancock County Information

Based on <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/39063> the county population is 75,930. The percent of the population under age 18 is 22.2%. The percent of the population below the poverty level is 9.7%

According to the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, a two parent family with two children under 5 years needs to earn a wage of \$51,012.00 per year and a single parent with 2 children under 5 years needs to earn a wage of \$51,012.00 per year in order to be self-sufficient in Hancock County.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure that identifies the minimum amount of income a given household would need to adequately meet basic needs without receiving any additional public or private assistance. The measure takes into account family composition— including the age of dependent children— and area cost of living to determine the minimum amount of income needed to meet basic needs. More information can be obtained at OACAA's self-sufficiency calculator.

www.oacaa.org/self-sufficiency-calculator/

Through all of the programs offered, Hancock County Job and Family Services works with citizens of all ages in the county to help improve self- sufficiency and quality of life.

Family Assistance

Hancock County Job and Family Services provides eligible Hancock County residents assistance for basic needs such as food, shelter, and medical care. Hancock County is part of a shared services program in the state of Ohio called Collabor8. Collabor8 counties work together to provide food, medical, and cash assistance to county residents in a consistent and timely manner. The counties who are part of Collabor8

include: Hancock, Wood, Carroll, Holmes, Sandusky, Knox, Marion, Morrow, and Delaware. In 2018, Collabor8 handled the following call volume:

Service Type	Total calls
Customer Service	81,806
Eligibility	37,366
Medicaid Only	8,340
Medicaid Renewal	16,745
	144,257

Collabor8 Provides the following services to citizens who qualify:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly Food Assistance helps eligible low-income Ohioans stretch food budgets and buy healthy food. In Hancock County the total benefits issued for 2018 were \$6,998,560.00.

- The monthly average issued was \$699,856.00 to an average of 5671 individuals per month.
- Approximately 1 in 13 individuals in Hancock County receive Food Assistance.
- The average monthly amount per recipient is \$1123.44.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance benefits can be used to buy most food products including plants/seeds for a garden. Food Assistance benefits cannot be used to purchase alcoholic beverages, tobacco, vitamins/medicines, hot food products (pre-cooked rotisserie chicken) or non-food items (pet food, paper products, household supplies, etc.).

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) provides a cash grant to help meet basic needs for qualified individuals. Adults receiving TANF have a 36 month time limit for receiving a cash grant. The total TANF assistance issued in 2018 in Hancock County was \$550,167.00

- An average of 270 individuals per month in Hancock County received cash assistance.
- Of the 270 individuals receiving assistance, **267 of them are children**. Most of the children are residing with a relative such as a grandparent or disabled parent. The average monthly cash benefit is **\$203.77** per individual.

Medicaid provides assistance for both physical and behavioral health needs including medication to citizens who qualify.

In 2018, the total expenditures in Hancock County for all Medicaid programs is \$92,108,346.90.

- An average of 13,504 individuals (1 in 5 citizens) per month in Hancock County receive Medicaid. 44% of all recipients are children.

Day Care eligibility for publicly funded day care can be critical in making work pay and helping families become self-sustaining. Day care benefits issued in 2018 were \$1,558,591.51.

The average monthly cost of day care provided is \$129,883.00 for an average of 363 children.

Medicaid Transportation ensures access to Medicaid covered services. It includes providing transportation to medical, behavioral health, and pharmaceutical services as well as other benefit related appointments. Over the past year, 5033 trips transported people with no or limited transportation to and from medical appointments at an annual cost of \$19,003.91.

Information and Referral puts people in touch with services. It is often the first step in providing food to the hungry, financial supports to preserve a job or education, and interventions which can preserve a family. These emergency responses can be as simple as providing a referral to other community programs to meet an immediate need or can be the first step in creating a comprehensive plan of service.

- Designated staff handled approximately 359 information and referral contacts in 2018.



In 2018, Ohio Means Jobs-Hancock provided workforce development services to Hancock County jobseekers and employers. Ohio Means Jobs-Hancock is a consortium of 10 partner agencies administered by Job and Family Services.

In 2018, Ohio Means Jobs – Hancock had numerous visits to the Workforce unit from jobseekers receiving assistance with resume writing, mock interviewing, job search assistance and several other services. Ohio Means Jobs – Hancock had 248 hiring events for employers within its building at 7746 County Road 140. Ohio Means Jobs – Hancock also worked with numerous employers to do over 96 assessments of

individuals being hired. Staff at Ohio Means Jobs – Hancock also initiated 1 new Individual Training Account and 48 new On the Job Training grants.

Ohio Means Jobs – Hancock assisted 85 SNAP (food assistance) and TANF (cash assistance) participants this year that in obtaining employment. Individuals were assisted with workforce readiness training, interviewing skills, family stability, fiscal literacy and resume writing.

CCMEP started July 1st, 2016. The program provides employment and training services for eligible youth between the ages of 16 to 24 years of age who are considered to have a barrier to employment. The program provides case management and supportive services to help individuals overcome employment barriers. The number of individuals who received CCMEP services in 2018 was 305.

Children's Protective Services

Children's Protective Services receives and investigates reports of alleged child abuse and neglect in Hancock County. Caseworkers investigate the report by conducting interviews and gathering information about the report in order to determine the safety of the child and the degree of intervention necessary. Caseworkers will make determinations and recommendations designed to help keep the child safe, reduce the risk of further abuse or neglect, and keep the family intact whenever possible. The investigators work closely with a multi-disciplinary team through the Center for Safe and Healthy Children in conducting investigations. The multi-disciplinary team includes members of law enforcement, Children's Protective Services, Prosecutor's office, mental health, medical, and Victims Assistance. It is hoped that by this type of approach, the child victim will receive comprehensive services and further trauma to the child will be significantly reduced.

Total reports made to Children's Protective Services in 2018 were 1588. Of those reports, 433 were opened for investigation of abuse, neglect, dependency and Family in Need of Services, 1031 were screened out, and 124 were provided information and referral services.

The goal of protective services is to protect a child from harm and whenever possible, prevent removal of a child from the home. When high risk factors of child abuse, neglect, or dependency are identified, a caseworker can be assigned to work with the family in the home. Protective service can be voluntary, or court ordered. In some instances, the child is placed with relatives and the caseworker provides services to the parents and relatives in order to facilitate a return to the child's home and assure the child's safety. The primary focus of protective services is safety for the child. To meet this objective, the emphasis is on improving parenting skills, mental health, and

substance abuse counseling, domestic violence services, child development and basic living skills such as housing, finances, and transportation.

In 2018, On-going services were provided to 189 adults and 103 children.

When it has been determined by the court that a child is not safe remaining in the home, the Court temporarily places the child into a substitute care setting. If there is a suitable relative to care for the child, a home study is conducted on the home of a relative and a recommendation is made to the Court. Services are offered to the relative to help the child adjust and maintain in the placement. In 2018, **26 home studies** were completed to attempt to keep children with a family member in lieu of foster care. **18** families received Kinship funds from ODJFS.

Agency substitute care services protect children who are at risk of imminent harm. Substitute care occurs when the child cannot remain safely in the home and a suitable relative to care for the child cannot be located.

- Substitute care services were provided to **108** children in 2018.
- **62** children were in custody as of December 31, 2018.
- **43** children were discharged from custody in 2018.

These children went home, to relatives, or to adoptive placements.

Placement of Children in 2018

Family Foster Homes	77
Group Home/ Residential	12
Adoptive Home	16
Independent Living	1
Juvenile Detention	2

Placement upon Discharge

Returned to Parent	14
Legal Custody to Relative/other	9
Adoption Finalized	16
Emancipated	4

Length of Time in Substitute Care at Discharge

0-3 Months	6
4-11 months	12
12+ months	25

The total placement costs for children in 2018 was \$1,706,000.00

Hancock County Children Protective Services licenses foster homes and approves adoptive homes for families wishing to foster and adopt through Hancock County Job and Family services. The agency strives to keep children who are temporarily removed from their home in the county, so the children are able to maintain relationships in the community and school when applicable. The agency also wants to keep siblings

together. **16 families** worked with Children Protective Services as licensed foster and or approved adoptive parents in 2018.

- **151 children** received an on-going adoption subsidy.
- **10 children** received a Post Adoption Special Service Subsidy in order to help maintain placements.
- The agency completed **23 step adoptions** for Hancock County Probate Court.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services receives reports of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and exploitation. Abuse and Neglect can be self-abuse, self-neglect, or harm inflicted by another person. Investigations are completed and services are offered. If the situation is severe or the elder is in need of additional services, an ongoing case can be offered. If necessary, the agency may file in Probate Court for a Protective Services Order or to request the Elderly adult be provided with a guardian.

In 2018, **138 cases** of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation were opened. From those opened cases, there were 7 guardianships, 33 nursing home/assisted living placements, 2 referrals to hospice and 5 referrals to aid one individual who was homeless. 60 reports were screened out.



Child Support Enforcement

Child Support Enforcement (CSEA) manages the collection and distribution of child support monies, locates absent parents, establishes support and paternity, modifies support orders, and enforces medical and child support orders.

Paternity establishment is the legal determination of a child's father. By law, an unmarried female who gives birth is the sole legal custodian of the child until a court makes an order naming a father. By establishing paternity, a father gains the right to seek custody and parenting time. The child gains legal rights and privileges including inheritance rights. Establishing paternity helps provide a biological, emotional, and financial connection between a father and a child. It provides a legal basis for a child support order.

In 2018:

- Child Support Enforcement established paternity for **205** children in Hancock County.
- **222** Motions to Show Cause cases were filed with the courts to enforce child support orders.

Providing Help Today and Building Hope for Tomorrow

- **121** Bench Warrants were issued through the Courts for an Obligor's failure to appear and address the issue of non-payment of child support.

Child Support Enforcement collected and distributed a total of **\$10,309,785.89** in child support for children.

There were a total of 3952 open cases as of December 31, 2018.

According to State Data on Performance for Hancock County in the 2018 Federal Fiscal Year:

- Paternity was established at 103.13% ***
- Child Support was established in 93.62% of the cases
- Collection of Current Support for all Hancock County cases was made at a rate of 74.58%
- Collection of Past Due Support was collected at a rate of 75.20% for all cases with arrears owed

*** Dependent upon the number of births to unmarried couples