

Lorain County Children Services



2024
Annual Report



In partnership with the community, the staff, foster parents, and volunteers of Lorain County Children Services are committed to the safety and well-being of abused, neglected, and dependent children and will provide the highest quality protection, permanence, and prevention services to children and families.



Dear Lorain County Community,

On behalf of Lorain County Children's Services, I am pleased to present our Annual Report, highlighting the progress we have made in protecting and supporting the most vulnerable children and families in our community. This report reflects our collective efforts to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe, loving, and stable environment.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support—whether through partnerships, advocacy, or direct involvement in the lives of children. Your dedication makes a lasting impact, and together, we are strengthening families and creating brighter futures. Thank you to everyone who helped us pass our levy. The continued support we receive from you, our community and trusted partners, is overwhelming and appreciated!

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building even stronger collaborations with our community partners, service providers, and caregivers. By working together, we can provide even greater care and resources to those who need them most. We are also excited to share that progress on a new facility for child and parent visitation and Independent Living activities is moving quickly and will be operating before the end of the year. This facility will provide the child and family friendly environment deserved by the children and families we serve.

Thank you for standing with us in this important mission. With your ongoing support, we will continue to make Lorain County a place where all children feel safe, supported, and valued.

With gratitude,

Kristen Fox Berki
Executive Director,
Lorain County Children's Services

Board of Directors

Jim Miller,
Board Chair

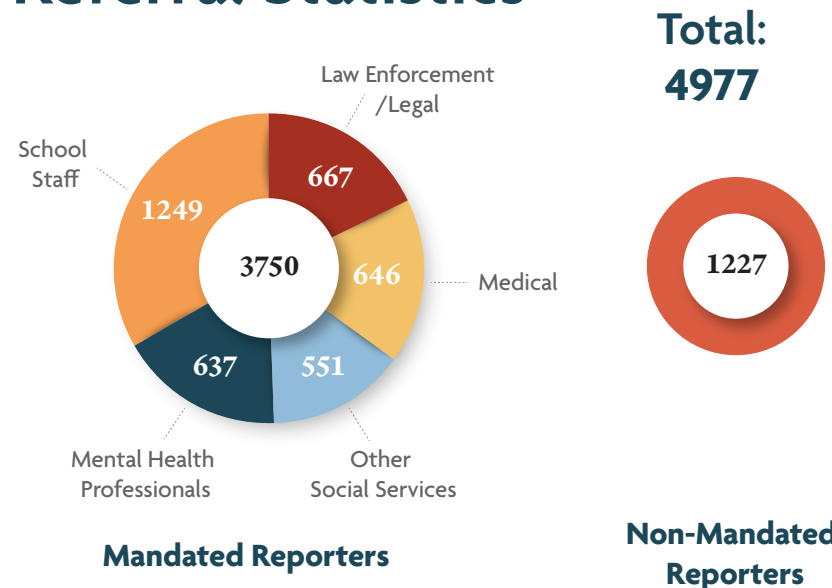
Andrew Lipian,
Board Vice Chair

Christina Doran,
Board Secretary

Kenneth Glynn
Martin Heberling
Lee Armbruster
Dan Gross
Tamara Newton
Roberto Davila
Rania Assily
Kim Withrow
Thomas Patrick
Martin O'Donnell
Mallory Santiago

Kristen Fox Berki,
Executive Director

Referral Statistics



School staff including teachers, guidance counselors, social workers and school administrators made the highest percentage of referrals at 25%. Medical staff, law enforcement and mental health professionals made up about 13% each of referrals made to the agency. Non-mandated people who made referrals made up 25% of all concerns reported. Non-mandated people include family and neighbors who called the agency with concerns about children. Overall, 75% of referrals were made by our mandated reporter partners.

Intakes

2023



31.2%

Screened
In
Total



58.4%

Screened
Out
Total



10.4%

Information
and/or
Referral Total

INTAKES RECEIVED IN 2023: 5,002

2024



32.8%

Screened
In
Total



61.4%

Screened
Out
Total



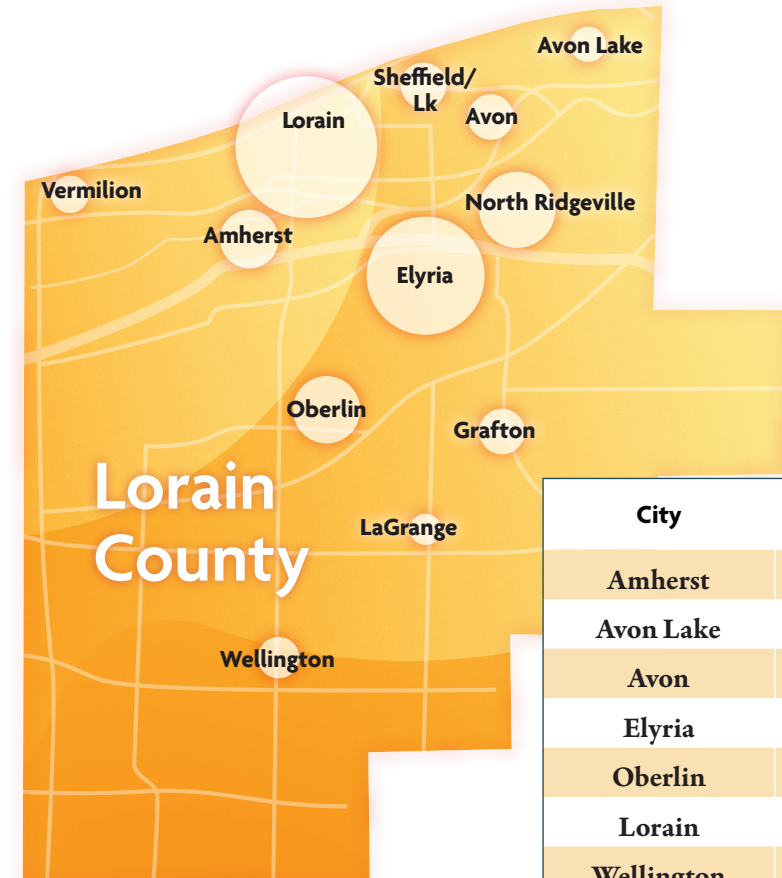
5.8%

Information
and/or
Referral Total

INTAKES RECEIVED IN 2024: 5,334

In 2023, 5002 intake referrals with concerns about child abuse and neglect were documented by staff. In 2024, this number increased by 6.5% to 5334 referrals. In 2023, 31.2% of the referrals made were screened in for an assessment/investigation. In 2024, nearly 33% of those referrals were screened in by staff.

Where Do Children Live?



City	Child Count
Amherst	80
Avon Lake	50
Avon	69
Elyria	781
Oberlin	88
Lorain	933
Wellington	56
Grafton	59
North Ridgeville	97
Vermilion	42
Lagrange	42
Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	65
Cleveland	49
Other	139

Almost 70% of children who had referrals that were screened in for an intake assessment/investigation live in Lorain and Elyria. The smaller cities in Lorain County also had moderate levels of screened in reports compared to that city's child population.

Cases Transferring from Intake to Ongoing



Risk Factors



**Emotional/
Mental Health**



**Substance Abuse/
Misuse**



**Domestic
Violence**



**Cognitive/Physical
Impairment**

In 2023, a total of 327 cases opened for ongoing services based on the intake assessments that were completed on families. In 2024, the number of families that had ongoing cases went to 359 cases, a 9% increase. Families become involved with ongoing cases when there are risk factors in families that increase safety concerns to the children in the family. These concerns include emotional/mental health concerns with the adults in the home that are not being managed, domestic violence, substance misuse/abuse, concerns with the adult's ability to manage stress, concerns about parents practices and cognitive/physical impairments.

State Involved Child Counts



	Jan 2023 – Dec 2023	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024
	Count	Count
On Involved Caseload 1st Day of Period	671	601
Entered Involved Caseload	712	660
Exited Involved Caseload	781	773
Ending Caseload	601	488
Foster Care Caseload - Ending	208	179
In-Home Caseload - Ending	393	309

Lorain County Children Services ended 2024 with 488 children who were involved with ongoing/foster care services. In 2023, the agency ended the year working with 601 children with an ongoing/foster care status. The difference from 2023 to 2024 is a 18% decrease of children with ongoing cases. Although this number does fluctuate from month to month or year to year, there has been a steady decrease in the number of youth who have ongoing cases. There is an overall decrease in the number of children who elevate to an ongoing/foster case as well. In 2023, 712 children entered ongoing/foster care services and in 2024, 660 children entered this status.

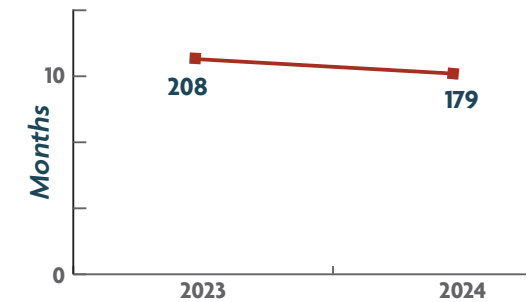
Entry & Exit Foster Care Counts



Time Period	Jan – Dec 2023		Jan – Dec 2024	
In Placement - 1st day	157	53.8%	208	61.9%
Entered Foster Care Caseload	135	46.2%	128	38.1%
Exited Foster Care Caseload	84	28.8%	157	46.7%
In Placement - Ending	208	71.2%	179	53.3%

In 2023, the Lorain County Domestic Relations court placed 135 children, from 72 different families into agency custody and exited 84 children. The goal would be for children to exit agency custody more frequently than they are entering custody. As this did not happen in 2023, agency staff worked to make improvements on this in 2024. By the end of 2024, the number of children exiting foster care outpaced the number of children coming into custody 14% over 2023. The number of children entering custody decreased by about 5% in the same years. 128 children entered foster care in 2024, while 157 children exited care.

Median Time in Foster Care



The median length of time decreased slightly from 2023 to 2024. The median length of stay for children in Lorain County Children Services custody went from 10.5 months in 2023 to 10.1 months in 2024. This includes children in custody regardless of where they are placed or who they are living with.

Placement Type

	Jan 2023 – Dec 2023		Jan 2024 – Dec 2024	
	Count	%	Count	%
Total Children in Care	208	100.0%	179	100.0%
Family Foster Care	116	55.8%	96	53.6%
Kinship Care	65	31.2%	62	34.6%
Congregate Care	25	12.0%	19	10.6%
Other	2	0.5%	2	1.1%

During 2024, efforts to locate kin to care for children separated from their biological parents continued to be a priority. At the end of the year, almost 35% of children that were in LCCS custody were placed with kin. Almost 54% of children were placed in traditional foster homes and 10.6% were placed in a group home or residential placement setting.

Foster Care Recruitment

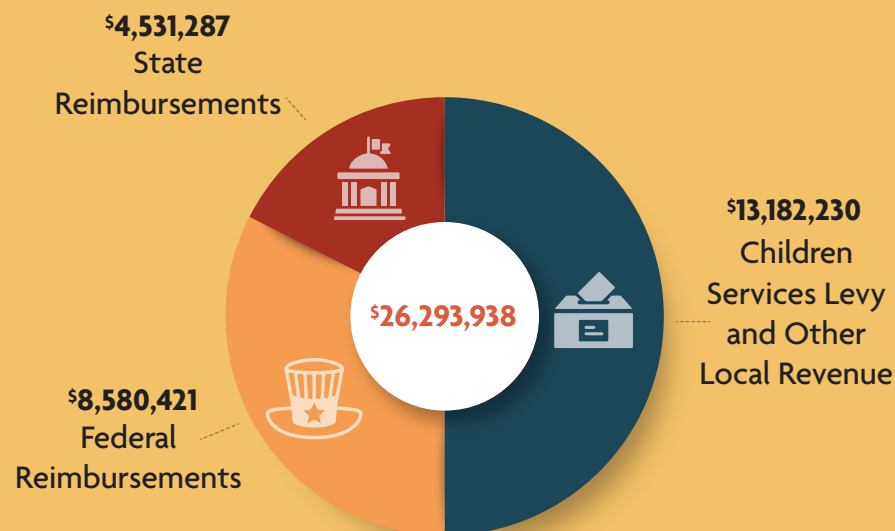
In 2024, our foster care recruitment efforts achieved significant success through a multi-faceted outreach strategy that engaged diverse communities across Lorain County and beyond. **We received 161 inquiries, 31 applications, and successfully licensed 18 families, underscoring the impact of our comprehensive approach.** We hosted 11 overview sessions with 422 participants enrolled and 111 attendees, providing vital information to prospective foster families. Our visibility was boosted by advertising, including 10 billboards, 120,000 mailers, 1,500 placemats and stickers, and a radio broadcast on 89.1 FM. Community engagement was a cornerstone, with participation in 33 local events such as the Dia del Nino celebration, Pride Festival, Crushers Baseball Game and the Labor Fest UAW. At these events, we were able to directly connect with families. Additionally, we presented the foster care need with organizations like the Lorain County Health Department and Leadership Lorain County, helping to strengthen our recruitment efforts and foster greater awareness about the need for foster families throughout the region.



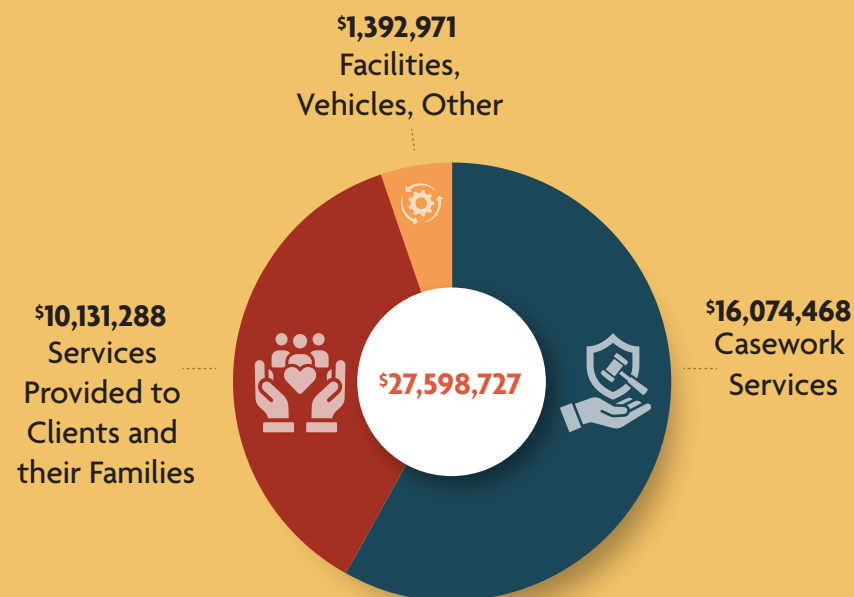
We received 161 inquiries, 31 applications, and successfully licensed 18 families, underscoring the impact of our comprehensive approach.



Income Statement



Revenue



Expenses



226 Middle Ave.
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 329-5340
childrenservices.org



Connect With Us



@LCCSFosterParents
@LorainCountyChildrenServices/



company/
lorain-county-children-services



lorain-co-children-serv



loraincountychildrenservic6466