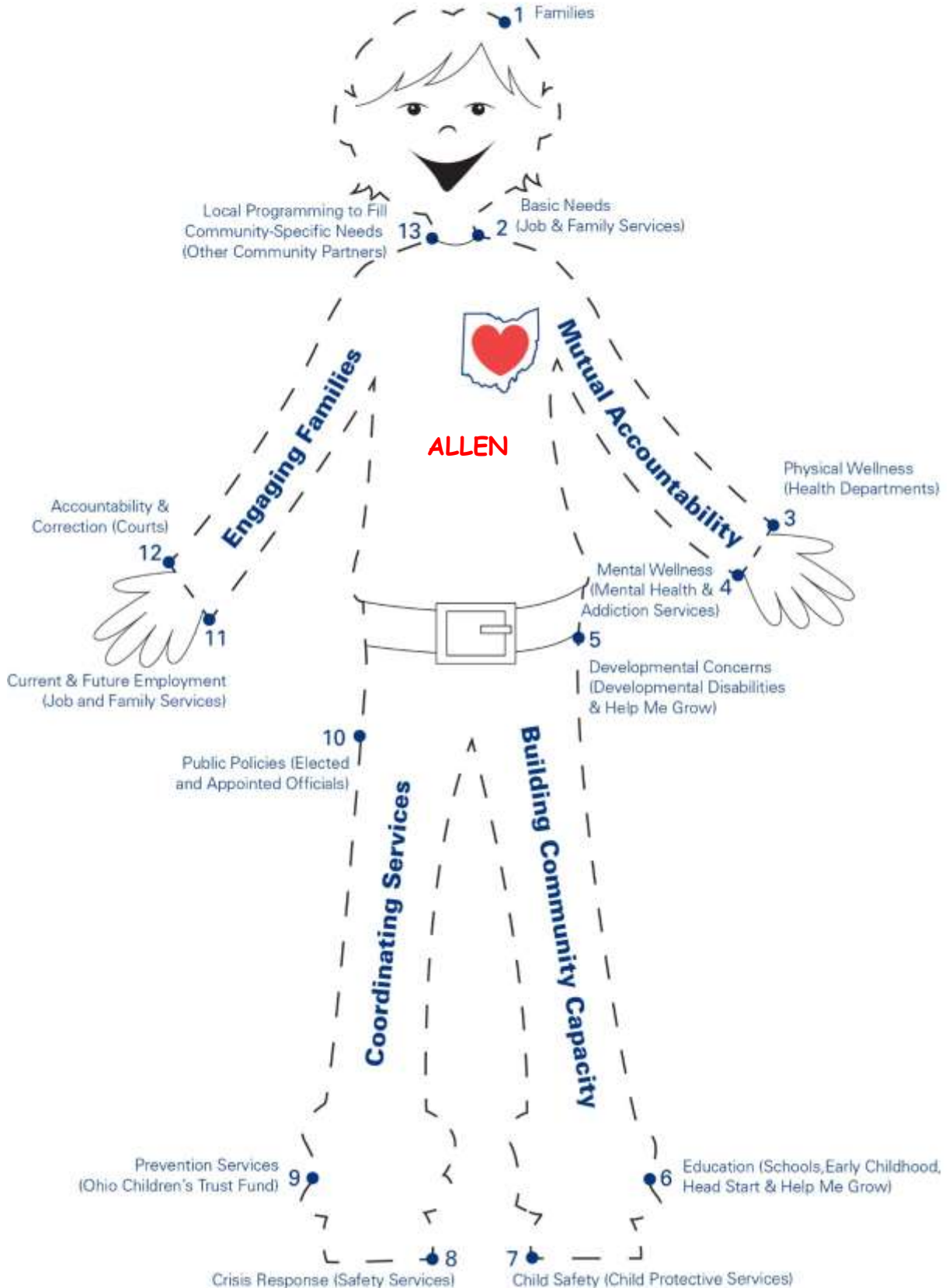


WE CONNECT THE DOTS.

YOUR COUNTY'S FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL connects the dots to eliminate redundancy and bring resources together for planning, monitoring and improving outcomes for families and children.



Allen County Family and Children First Council
P.O. Box 1243, Lima OH 45802 419-223-8563

Allen County Family & Children First Council

Who We Are

The mission of Allen County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) is to increase the access, capacity and effectiveness of services for the most vulnerable of our county's youth and their families whose needs extend beyond any one youth-serving program.

In short, we are the only entity that "connects the dots" for children and families who are in need of multiple services. We serve approximately 62 children and families annually with high risk needs through our various service areas.

Any Allen County family with a child or youth (age birth through 21 years) in need of a coordinated inter-disciplinary plan to address their unique needs is eligible for service coordination through FCFC. Referrals typically come through provider agencies, but any family has the right to self-refer for service coordination.

How We Work

We start with the family. Families are the center of our work and are active participants in the service planning, and decision-making process. Our ultimate goal is to enable families to function independently of the system and increase their ability to be self-sufficient.

We take a personalized approach in building a unique plan of care based on a foundation of the individual family's strengths. This plan is centered on respect for the cultural, racial and ethnic differences of the families we serve.

Our work is results-oriented. We employ ongoing evaluation of outcomes to ensure effectiveness. We believe that effective coordination of services for our families includes delivery of high quality services; reducing and eliminating duplicative efforts among agencies and barriers to collaboration; integration of community and family supports; and full utilization of funding resources.

What We Do

Our work includes the following programs:

- Service Coordination: Plan of Care for children (birth to 21 years) receiving services from multiple child serving systems
- Early Intervention Service Coordination: Working with children (birth to 3 years) at risk or with identified delays to provide evaluations and plan for services. In Allen County, the contract has been awarded to the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- Family and Civic Engagement: Integrating public services into county-wide planning committees to strengthen families.
- Community Planning: Bringing together partners that serve children and families to exchange information, identify areas of need and collaborate on initiatives and trainings for professionals and parents.

How We Are Funded

FCFC is funded by contributions from our Council partners, county and state allocations and state grants. In addition, significant in-kind support in the form of staffing, materials and other resources increases our capacity to coordinate services for Allen County children and families.