



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
CHILDREN SERVICES**

Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

2024 LEVY REQUEST

INFORMATION PRESENTATION





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2024 FCCS LEVY REQUEST

To help keep children and teens safer and make families stronger for longer, Franklin County Children Services is respectfully asking voters to approve a

**1.9 mill renewal with a 0.6 mill increase
property tax levy for a 10-year period**

on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot.



2024 FCCS LEVY REQUEST

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1.9 mill renewal with a 0.6 mill increase property tax levy for a 10-year period

on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot.

- More than 72% of agency funding comes from levies.
- Voters overwhelmingly approved renewal of 3.1 mill in 2019.
- **FCCS has not asked for millage increase in 20 years.**



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OUR AGENCY'S NEED TO EVOLVE

■ DRAMATIC IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

Challenges parents face are far different.
Add mental health crisis, neighborhood violence,
economic uncertainties, and stretched-thin
child welfare safety net.





OUR AGENCY'S NEED TO EVOLVE

■ DRAMATIC IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

■ CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN NEED

Each year, our agency is relied upon to help more than 26,000 children and their families through prevention, protection, placement, and permanency programs.





OUR AGENCY'S NEED TO EVOLVE

■ DRAMATIC IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

■ CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN NEED

■ CALLS FOR HELP 24 HOURS A DAY

In 2023, more than 27,500 calls and referrals to Franklin County Child Abuse Hotline.

- 52% allegations of physical abuse
- 30% concerns about neglect
- 16% allegations of sex abuse
- 14% fears about substance use/drug addiction
- 13% concerns about domestic violence





OUR AGENCY'S NEED TO EVOLVE

■ INCREASING COST OF PLACEMENT

Although FCCS safely reduced number of children in agency custody, placement costs have increased - **skyrocketing up 24%** over past three years.





OUR AGENCY'S NEED TO EVOLVE

■ INCREASING COST OF PLACEMENT

■ GROWING COMPLEXITY OF CARE

One in four youth in agency custody face complex issues including mental illness, developmental disabilities, and multi-system experiences.





OUR AGENCY'S NEED TO EVOLVE

- INCREASING COST OF PLACEMENT
- GROWING COMPLEXITY OF CARE
- **STRETCHING LENGTH OF STAY**

If child or teen must be placed in agency care, likely to remain in custody average of 580 days - nearly **60% increase** from decade ago.





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CALL TO ACTION

NEW DATA ON CHILD SAFETY





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CALL TO ACTION

NEW DATA ON CHILD SAFETY



IMPACTS FOR ALL FAMILIES





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CALL TO ACTION

**NEW DATA ON
CHILD SAFETY**



**IMPACTS FOR
ALL FAMILIES**



**FOCUS ON
PREVENTION**





CALL TO ACTION



CALL TO ACTION 1: PROTECTING THE WHOLE CHILD



CALL TO ACTION 2: STRENGTHENING ALL FAMILIES



CALL TO ACTION 3: VALUING OUR TEAM FCCS CULTURE



CALL TO ACTION 4: MANAGING FINANCIAL RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY



CALL TO ACTION 5: ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY AUTHENTICALLY



CALL TO ACTION 6: LEADING IN INNOVATION



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2024 LEVY FUNDED INITIATIVES



INITIATIVE 1: KINSHIP SUPPORT PARITY



INITIATIVE 2: STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETAINMENT



INITIATIVE 3: COMMUNITY PREVENTION SERVICES



2024 LEVY FUNDED INITIATIVES



INITIATIVE I: KINSHIP SUPPORT PARITY

- Children who can no longer safely stay with their parents do better when they are placed with grandparents, relatives, or other kinship caregivers. To be successful, **kin need better supports and access to resources.**
- With this levy, FCCS would be able to invest in additional kinship supports - **including higher kinship stipends** - so that more children can find safe, stable permanency through kinship.



2024 LEVY FUNDED INITIATIVES



INITIATIVE 2: STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETAINMENT

- When a child's caseworker leaves and is replaced by a new caseworker, national data shows that the child will likely stay in custody an additional six months or more on average. That means **more trauma to the child** and family and **more cost to the agency**.
- With this levy, we look to **invest in Team FCCS** and in our caseworkers - to train them, to retain them, to keep them safer and honor their value, and to hire more caseworkers and staff who best reflect the youth and families we serve.



2024 LEVY FUNDED INITIATIVES



INITIATIVE 3: COMMUNITY PREVENTION SERVICES

- We want to strengthen families **BEFORE** they are in crisis and fall into the child welfare safety net.
- With new levy dollars, the agency would be able to invest roughly **\$1 million more each year into community-based prevention** program providers who work with any family in Franklin County to help address new challenges caregivers are facing and mental health crisis gripping so many of our young people.



MAKING A REASONABLE ASK

■ HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Survey shows ‘providing safe, stable environments for all children’ still high priority.

With typically high approval numbers, county voters have passed nearly all FCCS requests since 1958.

Voter turnout expected to be high, which favors social service/ children-related asks.





MAKING A REASONABLE ASK

■ HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

■ GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS

Not asked voters for millage increase for more than 20 years.

If approved by voters, 2.5 mill levy (1.9 renewed PLUS 0.6 added) would total \$49.17 per \$100,000 home.

\$21 total increase for the year or **less than \$2 more per month.**





MAKING A REASONABLE ASK

- HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS
- **IMPACTFUL STORY TO SHARE**

Launched new multi-tiered, multi-channel, branded communications strategy to effectively **engage and listen to our community** and “tell our own story” about how FCCS is **keeping kids safer and making families stronger for longer.**





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**MORE INFORMATION ON
fccs.us**

