

# ALLEN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES



Protecting children by supporting and strengthening families in partnership with the community.



## 2025 by the numbers

- 3,811 referrals to our agency
- 732 referrals investigated
- 87 children in the temporary custody of relatives
- 176 children in protective supervision
- 197 children in agency custody
- 10 children found their forever home through adoption

The year 2025 marked a period of meaningful progress, renewed collaboration, and continued commitment to safeguarding the well-being of children and families throughout Allen County. As the community evolved in response to shifting social, economic, and behavioral health needs, Allen County Children Services (ACCS) remained focused on our mission: to protect children, support families and strengthen the systems that help children and families thrive. This annual report summarizes the key initiatives, achievements and challenges that shaped our work over the past year.

In 2025, ACCS accepted 732 reports for assessment, a slight decrease from 762 in 2024. Although the overall volume slightly declined, the composition of concerns shifted. Neglect reports increased while physical abuse decreased. Sexual abuse reports remained unchanged.

Screening trends further illustrate the changing nature of family needs. Alternative Response (AR) assessments decreased from 481 to 424, while traditional response (TR) rose from 281 to 308. This shift indicates an increased proportion of higher-risk or more complex cases, requiring deeper investigation and coordination with partner systems.

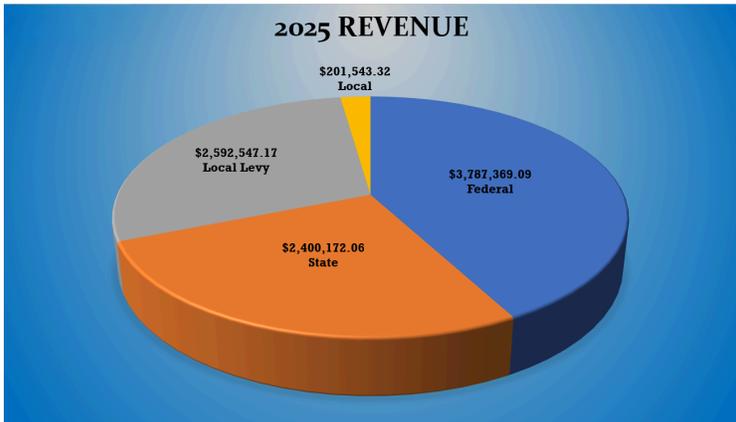
Court-involved activity declined in 2025. The total number of children involved with Allen County Juvenile Court decreased in all categories of cases including protective supervision, agency custody and temporary custody to relatives. Children placed in traditional foster care increased slightly.

These decreases reflect the agency's continued efforts to stabilize families earlier, reduce removals and rely on court intervention, when necessary, to ensure child safety. These numbers also demonstrate ACCS's ongoing commitment to family preservation, kinship stability and intervention strategies that target preservation.

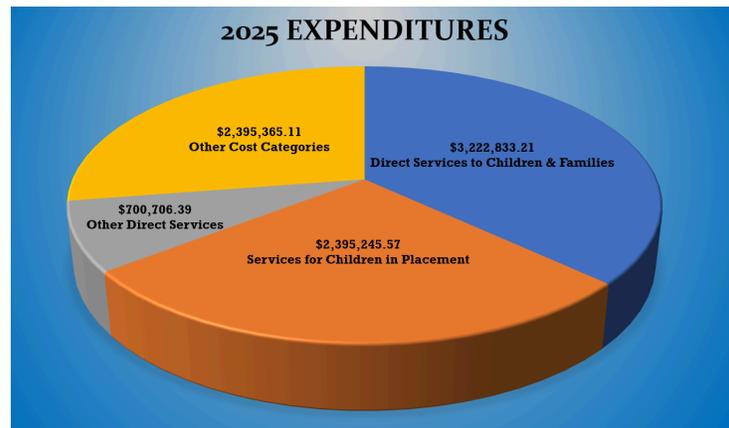
Permanency outcomes remained strong with 10 adoptions finalized in 2025. Kinnect to Family services expanded to our highest level since the implementation of this program with 166 youth served. The strength of this program reflects strategic investment in family-finding practices that strengthen natural support networks and reduce the need for agency custody. Resource and caregiver capacity remained stable throughout the year. Recruitment and retention continue to be priorities as ACCS seeks to ensure that children requiring out-of-home care have access to high-quality placements within their community. With

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# Financials



2025 Revenue		
Federal	\$3,787,369.09	42%
State	\$2,400,172.06	27%
Local Levy	\$2,592,547.17	29%
Local	\$201,543.32	2%
Total Revenue	\$8,981,631.64	100.00%



2025 Expenditures		
Direct Services to Children and Families	\$3,222,833.21	37%
Services for Children in Placement	\$2,395,245.57	28%
Other Cost Categories	\$2,395,365.11	27%
Other Direct Services	\$700,706.39	8%
Total	\$8,714,150.28	100.00%

# Board of Directors

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Barbara Blass       | Christopher Jackson |
| Kristopher Browning | Aimee Bucher        |
| Nate Garlock        | Jennifer Brogee     |
| Scott Brinkman      | Robert H. Meyer IV  |
| Courtney Owens      |                     |

# Executive Director

Sarah Newland



Allen County Children Services staff on Wear Blue Day 2025

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the implementation of the Allen/Auglaize/Hardin Treatment Foster program we are actively working to recruit homes to provide this level of care. Specialized programs such as START and our CAST attendance continue to demonstrate the positive impact of preventative and family-focused coordination of services. Strong community partnerships continue to be essential to our progress this year. ACCS continues to work closely with law enforcement, schools, healthcare professionals, mental health agencies, juvenile court and the board of developmental disabilities to ensure a unified approach to child protection. Despite a challenging financial climate, ACCS maintained stability. Voters passed our two renewal levies that provide significant funding to our agency, our .75 mill levy in May followed by the .5 mill levy in November. We appreciate the public's support and work hard to maintain fiscal responsibility. ACCS recognizes staff well-being and expertise directly impacts service quality which helped us reduce caseworker turnover compared to the previous year. ACCS had the privilege of having Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine as our keynote speaker at our annual April Community for Kids Luncheon as part of April's Child Abuse Prevention Month. We added a board member last year, too. Courtney Owens joined our Board in March. As we reflect on the past year, we extend our gratitude to our foster families, community partners, board members, staff and community members who support our mission. Together, we continue to build a stronger, safer, and more resilient future for the children and families of Allen County.

Sarah Newland  
Executive Director