



SENECA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

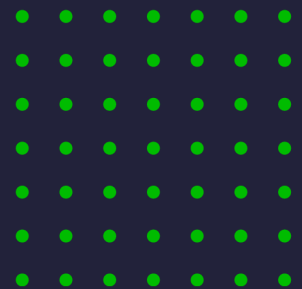




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County Commissioners

“The Seneca County Board of Commissioners serves as the executive and legislative authority for the county, overseeing operations, managing budgets, and guiding policy to support residents’ well-being.”

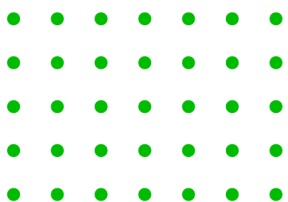
~Seneca County Commissioners website:
[Seneca County Commissioners](#)



Brent Busdeker,
Commissioner

Anthony Paradiso,
President

Bill Frankart,
Vice President





Director's Message

As director of the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services, I am proud to present our 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the essential programs that strengthen families, protect children, and promote workforce success across Seneca County.

This was a year of exciting transformation for our leadership team. With the retirement of several long-tenured employees including the director, program administrators, and supervisors, we bid farewell to decades of invaluable experience—but we also welcomed the energy and ideas of a new generation of leaders.

This transition has sparked innovation, strengthened our commitment to growth, and set the stage for even greater impact in the way we serve our community. As we embrace fresh perspectives, we are more prepared than ever to meet evolving needs, inspire our teams, and build a brighter, more resilient future for the individuals and families depending on us.

Our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) continued to play a vital role in supporting local residents and families with access to nutritious meals, helping promote food security throughout Seneca County. Through Medicaid, eligible residents received essential health coverage, improving access to preventive care, treatment, and behavioral health services. Ohio Works First (OWF) remained focused on assisting families through temporary cash assistance and work supports, providing opportunities for employment and steps toward long-term stability.

Through our OhioMeansJobs center, programs such as Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Adult and Youth, SNAP Employment & Training (E&T), Neighborhood Employment Network Training (NET), and Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) connected job seekers with in-demand careers and training, while Child Care programs supported working parents and parents enrolled in higher education with safe, high-quality early learning environments.

Protective Services remained committed to child safety, permanency, and well-being. Through partnerships with The Fellowship Program and Northwest Treatment Foster Homes, and with support from the Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma (START) Program, we strengthened kinship and foster placements, helped families access treatment and resources, and worked to ensure children found safe, stable, and permanent homes.

The Child Support program achieved remarkable success in strengthening financial stability for children and families. By efficiently establishing and enforcing support orders, the team ensured families received the assistance they need. Strong partnerships with the Courts and Clerk of Court enhanced the program's effectiveness, allowing for smooth, timely, and fair operations.

In Business and Technology, the team continued to ensure accurate and timely payment processing, contract completion, and the maintenance of secure, up-to-date technology. This year, the division underwent a strategic restructuring to better align with the agency's evolving needs, resulting in the creation of two distinct departments: the Business Department and the Technology Department. This change allows each team to focus more effectively on their core priorities, enhancing efficiency, innovation, and service delivery across the agency. Together, these programs reflect a coordinated and comprehensive effort to serve individuals and families at every stage of life.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff, community partners, and stakeholders whose commitment makes this work possible. As we look ahead, we remain focused on innovation, accountability, and service excellence to achieve stronger outcomes for the individuals and families we proudly serve.

Sincerely,

Loren Branski



SCDJFS Leadership

Administration

Loren Branski Director

Ginger Mack Human Resources Administrator

Mindy Strup Kummerer Public Relations Specialist

Business & Technology Services

Melissa Sours Business Services Administrator

Charlie Young Information & Technology Administrator

Legal

Victor Perez Supervising Attorney

David LaRocco Supervising Attorney

Protective Services

Jennifer Schumacher Administrator

Crystal Smith Supervisor

Jessica Bartson Supervisor

Desiree Adkins Supervisor

Child Support

Michelle McLaughlin Administrator

Monica Bryant Supervisor

SCDJFS Leadership

Workforce & Family Services: OhioMeansJobs

Terri Frankart

Administrator

Elaine Cook

Supervisor, Retired 12/31/25

Sherry Feuct

Supervisor

Workforce & Family Services: Income Maintenance

Michelle Williams

Administrator

Vernita Miller

Supervisor

Jessica Young

Supervisor

Mary Reinhart

Supervisor

Mission

The Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services helps families get services to help themselves through our caring and knowledgeable staff.



Professional Affiliations



Leadership Seneca County

Ohio Child Support Professionals Association (OCSPA)

Public Child Services Organization of Ohio (PCSAO)

Ohio County Agency Technical Strategy (OCATS) Committee

Seneca County Health Alliance

Job and Family Services Human Resources Association (JFSHRA)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director's Association (OJFSDA)

OJFSDA Workforce and Child Care Committees

Greater Ohio Workforce Board (GOWB)

Family and Children First Council (FCFC)

Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS)

Seneca County Wellness Coordinator

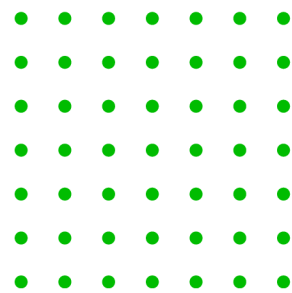
Seneca County Insurance Committee

Suicide Prevention Coalition

Improving Youth Programming Consortium (IYPC)

Seneca County Community Council

Seneca Resource Network



Human Resources & Administration

2025 Year in Review

This year was marked by both transition and intentional investment in leadership, organizational stability, and professional development. Human Resources and Administration remained focused on staying current with evolving trends and best practices by attending the Ohio Public Employers Labor Relations Association (OHPELRA) Conference, participating in State Employment Relations Board (SERB) trainings and events, attending monthly Northwest Directors' Association meetings, and continuing quarterly participation in the Job and Family Services Human Resources Association (JFSHRA) and quarterly General Membership meetings. These opportunities provided valuable insight into labor relations, compliance, leadership collaboration, and the sharing of best practices with peers across Ohio.

The agency experienced significant leadership changes, including the retirement of Director, Kathy Oliver and the departure of the Assistant Director, Steve Kaifas. Human Resource worked closely with the County Commissioners to support a smooth and successful transition, culminating in the welcoming of our new Director, Loren Branski.

In response to budgetary needs, agency restructuring took place to ensure the organization could continue operating within budget while maintaining essential services. Additional efforts included transitioning to a new Clemans Nelson representative, our consulting partner. All-staff meetings emphasized professionalism in the workplace, the power of accountability, and leading at all levels. Management staff participated in targeted trainings addressing grit and leadership readiness, setting standards of success, building highly effective teams, and enhancing communication skills.

These initiatives underscore Human Resources and Administration's commitment to supporting strong leadership, continuous improvement, and a professional, engaged workforce during a year of change and growth.

Training, All Staff, & Town Hall Meetings

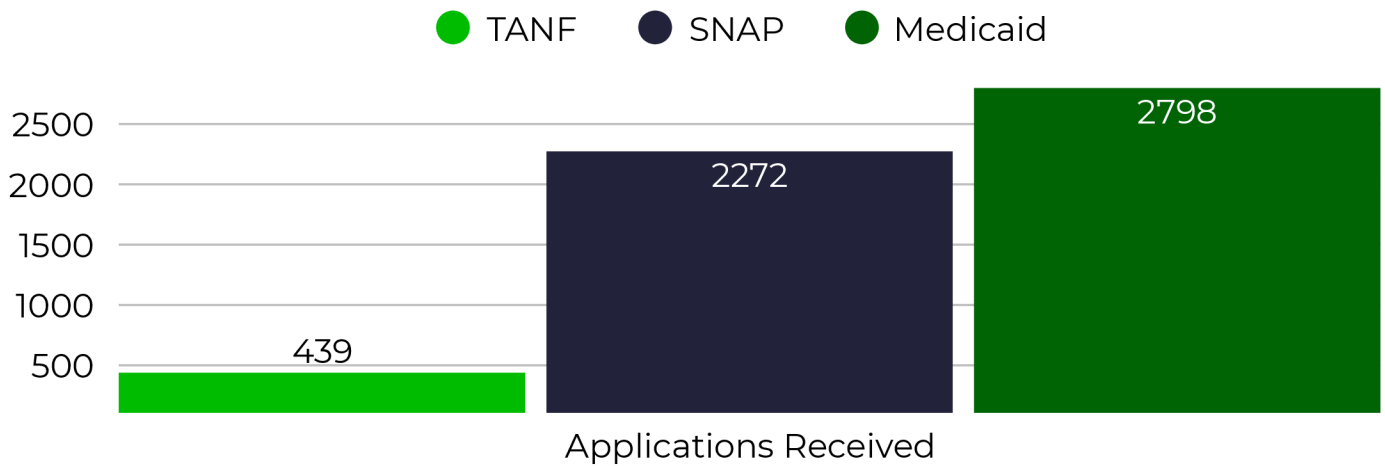
- Dawnielle Pierce, ODJFS
- Allison Aldrich, OT: Sensory Processing Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Trauma
- Tiffin Police Chief David Pauly: Human Trafficking
- Jessica Barnes, Heartbeat Hope Medical
- Ashley Terry, State Fire Marshalls Office
- Marissa Orzechowski, Sisters in Shelter
- Barton McKelvey, Hospice
- Hannah Luhring, Edward Jones
- Lisa Banks, Damita Knicely, & Amber Robinson, OhioKAN
- Brittney Murphy, The Ability Center
- Nikki Distel, United Way of North Central Ohio



Workforce & Family Services: Income Maintenance



Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid Programs were administered with state monitoring and oversight. Two certificates from the Ohio Department of Medicaid were received for being a "Top Performing County in Application Ratios and Renewal Ratios." The team was also acknowledged for a successful "National Voters Registration Act" compliance inspection.



Medicaid Program Support Incentive Monies Earned: \$46, 951.98

Benefits Issued

TANF: \$616,478

SNAP: \$14,158,370

Medicaid: \$161,072,558



Population Served (Monthly Average)

TANF: 2 Adults, 177 Children

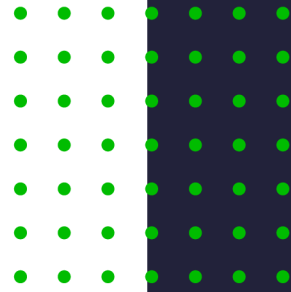
SNAP: 6,685 Adults, 3,673 Children

Medicaid: 7,228 Adults, 5,582 Children



Benefit Recovery

Total Collections: \$24,783.42
Incentives Earned: \$3,521.72



Business Services

The Business Services & Fiscal Division enjoyed a successful year, driven by a skilled and dedicated staff who ensured agency funds were managed responsibly while advancing the mission of Seneca County Job & Family Services. Once again, the division achieved a clean outcome in the Job & Family Services portion of the annual county audit conducted by the Auditor of State of Ohio. Staff worked diligently to oversee contracts, conduct monitoring activities, and provide essential support across the agency. Their efforts included processing invoices and receipts, maintaining vehicles, coordinating travel, and refining standard operating procedures to improve efficiency. Through collaboration and commitment, the division continues to strengthen internal operations, support JFS employees, and deliver timely, high-quality services to Seneca County residents and community partners.

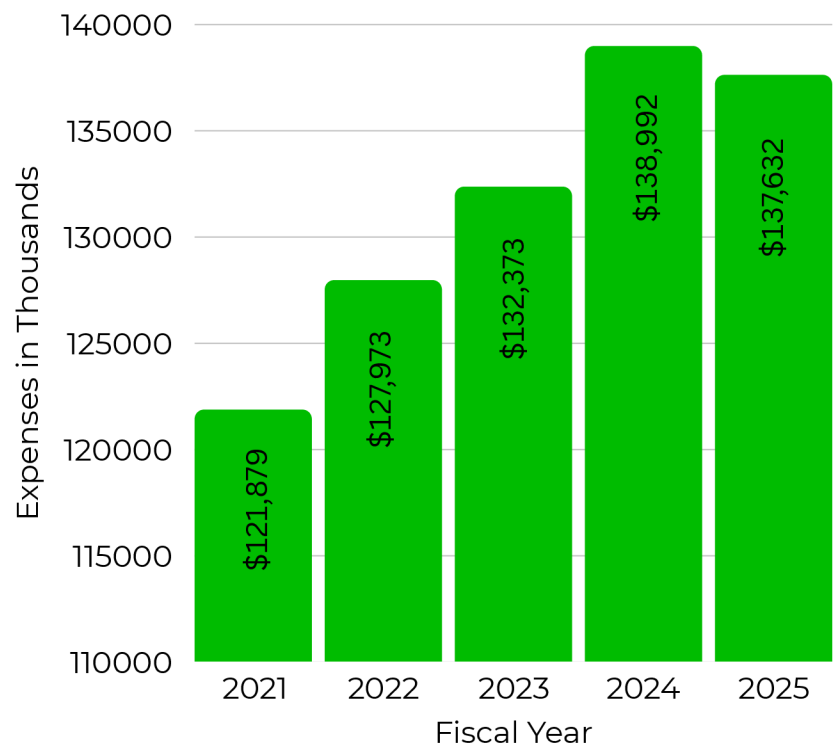
Program	Budget	Expenditures
Public Assistance	\$6,564,955	\$6,001,051
Child Support	\$1,910,158	\$1,635,615
WIOA	\$978,954	\$459,403
Protective Services	\$4,046,236	\$4,026,412

Budgeted & Expended

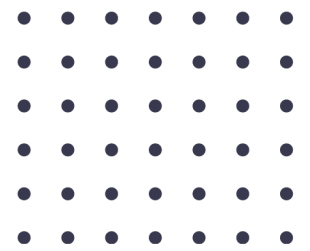
The totals budgeted per program area and the totals actually expended per program area.

Mandated Share

The totals required by County Commissioners to meet the county share of Public Assistance expenditures.



Information Technology



Program Updates

- Windows 11 was rolled out to all users within the building successfully, which involved work behind the scenes to ensure all pre-existing software and utilities would not be negatively impacted.



Equipment Updates

- Major phone system firmware update completed and configured.
- Received, configured, and deployed a brand new mail machine.



Supporting Building Projects

- Worked in partnership with county maintenance in support of their larger scale building projects (furnace, boiler, security system, door system, HVAC Blowers, and Veteran Services remodel).



State Hardware Upgrades

- State hardware upgrades on agency network were provisioned in partner with OIS/OIT, network switches, UPS's (battery backups), and patch panels.



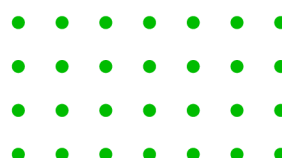
Auditing

- Large-scale State Audit on network vulnerabilities was completed with zero major/critical findings.
- County Network audit and device/user inventory discovery completed by request of Commissioner Busdecker.



Transportation

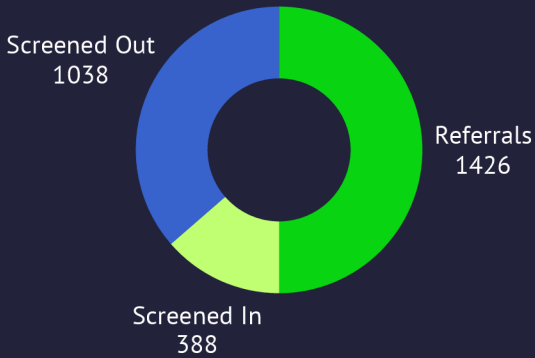
- Procurement of two new agency vehicles.



Protective Services



Several community partners made contributions for children and families, including the Seneca County Opportunity Center Aktion Club, Tiffin Mercy Hospital, the Cardenas family, Tilly's, St. John's Church, the Leo Club, and Giving Birthdays.



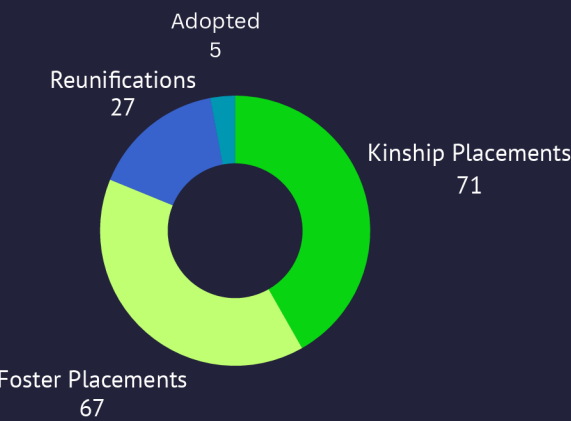
Intake

- 1,426 total referrals/reports were received
- 1,038 were screened-out due to not meeting criteria for services
- 388 were screened-in for assessment/investigation, involving 835 children and 891 adults
- 64 Abuse, Neglect and/or Dependency cases were filed.



Ongoing

- 44 families were provided ongoing case plan services
- 1,741 ongoing case visits (including attempted) with children and adults
- Over 320 court hearings, in service for all case types.



Placement and Foster Care

- 71 children were placed in kinship homes as an alternative to foster care
- 67 children were placed in foster care
- 27 children were reunified
- 5 children were adopted
- 10 foster families were certified or maintained their certification



Adult Services

- 99 referrals/ reports were received
- 79 were screened-out due to not meeting criteria for services or declined services
- 20 were screened-in and provided services



Child Support



Caseloads were restructured to ensure continued timely and accurate service provision.

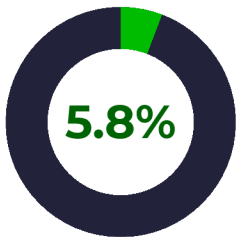
Legal services were provided to a total of 521 (five hundred twenty-one) cases, including 8 (eight) interstate cases.

Twenty-two (22) interstate cases were active with fifteen (15) initiated by SCDJFS and seven (7) responding to another state.

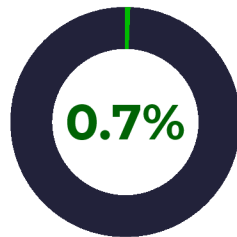


Total Collections: \$7,905,347.23

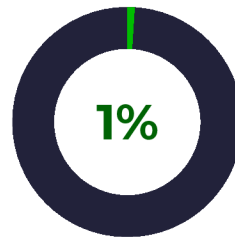
Tax Interceptions:
\$460,232.37



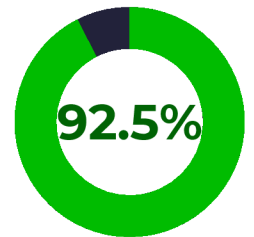
Unemployment:
\$51,406.28



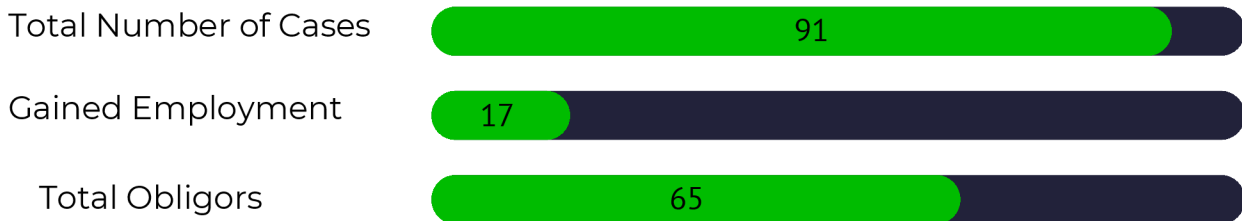
Bank Account Seizures:
\$83,217.07



All Other Sources:
\$7,310,491.51

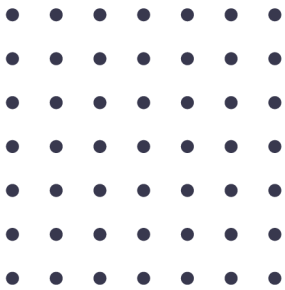
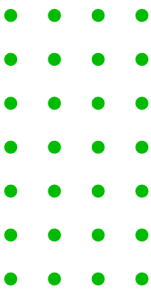


Seek Work Services



General Statistics	Case Actions	Legal Statistics
4,506 Open Cases	115 Case Reviews Completed	132 Bench Warrants for Non-Payment
615 Average Phone Calls per Month	57 Support Orders Established	50 Objection Hearings by Hearing Officer
1,462 Web Portal Inquiries	12 Cash Medical & Support Establishment	140 Citation in Contempt Filings
51% of Customers Registered on the Customer Service Portal	49 Paternities Established through Genetic Testing	46 Administrative Orders Adopted by Court

Workforce & Family Services: OhioMeansJobs



Staff are available to help Job Seekers create resumes, cover letters, applications, and/or help search job listings. Computers with internet access, printers, fax, and other resources are available at no cost. Employers also utilize the OMJ to advertise their job openings and help host hiring events. Our staff members helped one thousand seven hundred sixty-one (1,761) customers with OMJ services this year.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a U.S. Department of Labor program designed to help job seekers access employment, training, and supportive services so that they may succeed in the workforce. Participants may receive case management, supportive services and are also potentially eligible for On-the-Job Training (OJT) or classroom training to obtain in-demand credentials which lead to employment. On average, thirty-five (35) adults per month received WIOA funded services in 2025. Additionally, local businesses utilized WIOA to help provide apprenticeships. Eight (8) employees with three (3) businesses participated in the apprenticeship program. One (1) employee completed training and six (6) are still in the process of completing the coursework and required hours.

SCDJFS provided \$197,159 in Adult/Dislocated Worker Services and Incumbent Worker Training to Job Seekers and Employers in 2025.



Workforce & Family Services: OhioMeansJobs

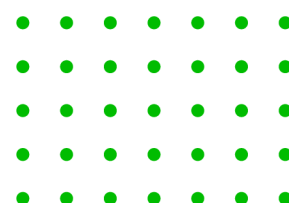
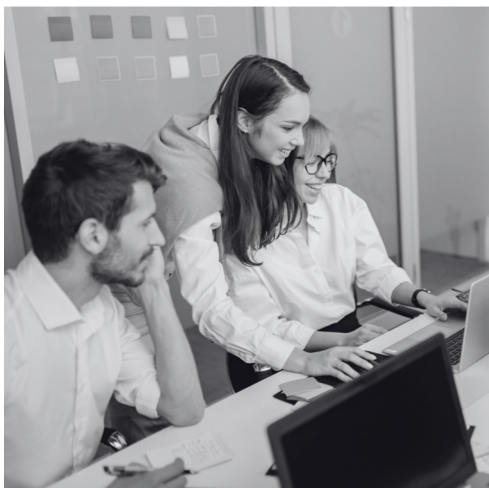


Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment & Training (E&T)

Staff conduct job readiness interviews with SNAP recipients that are considered work required. Work required participants can volunteer for the SNAP Employment and Training Program. Staff will help identify potential barriers to employment, help recipients set goals, provide referrals to resources, assign job search activities, and may assign to a worksite. In 2025, there were forty-two (42) individuals that volunteered for the SNAP E&T program. Twenty-three (23) clients met exemptions or were unsuitable for enrollment. Twenty-one (21) were enrolled with five (5) gaining employment and being disenrolled from the E&T program.

Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program (CCMEP)

The CCMEP program combines Workforce & Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth & Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to provide enhanced employment and training services to individuals ages fourteen to twenty-four (14-24) who meet program eligibility. Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance recipients under age twenty-five (25) are required to participate. Most CCMEP youth participate voluntarily. Comprehensive assessments are completed to help establish employment goals for youth entering the program. Participants then receive case management, supportive services, and/or other job training services (similar to those offered through WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker programming). On average, twenty-three (23) youth per month received TANF and/or WIOA Youth funded CCMEP Services through December 2025 totaling \$259,727.



Workforce & Family Services: OhioMeansJobs



Non-Emergency Transportation (NET)

NET services are available to Medicaid recipients requiring transportation to/from scheduled Medicaid billable appointments. Customers must request these services in advance; staff then schedule transportation through North Central Area Transit (NCAT) or other available vendors as needed. Two thousand six (2,006) calls were handled to process seven hundred twenty-five (725) requests for NET. Those resulted in two thousand five hundred forty-eight (2,548) trips, totaling a cost of \$109,536.

Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program (PRC)

PRC is available to low-income families through the federally funded Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. During 2025, our PRC program helped families with expenses such as rent, utilities, vehicle repairs, fuel, kinship caregiver services, etc. Our plan also supplements workforce programs through Subsidized Employment, Employment Retention, and Short-Term Training. PRC services also help fund Family & Children First Council's WrapAround Service Coordination, Seneca Mentoring Youth Links (SMYL) and After School Programs.

Our staff processed six hundred forty-eight (648) PRC applications for nine hundred fifty (950) requested services. Two hundred fifty-six (256) applications were approved for a total of \$339,237 in PRC expenditures.

Child Care

Staff determined eligibility for subsidized child care and administered licensing requirements for Type A & B providers. Through December 2025, staff processed three hundred twelve (312) new applications and seventy-two (72) renewals. An average of four hundred eleven (411) children per month had child care authorizations. The child care program was expanded in 2024 to include those households exceeding 145% of the Federal Poverty (FPL) gross income through the Child Care Voucher Program (CCVP). This program allows child care for those households whose gross income is between 145-200% FPL. This has given child care to an additional thirteen (13) families that would not have received the assistance previously. The inclusion of Early Care & Education (ECE) has helped an additional eighty-one (81) families with the cost of pre-school. Staff also administered initial and ongoing licensing requirements for five (5) child care providers.





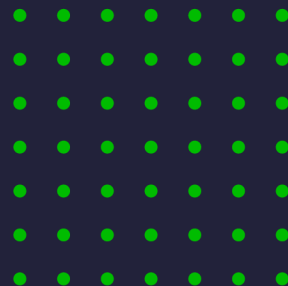
Upskilling our Workforce and Enhancing Education

Employers are reimbursed 50% of the cost of training.
For 2025, \$20,160.00 was reimbursed for twelve (12) courses.

- \$20,160 awarded to American Plastics for training fourteen (14) supervisors. This was a special project with funds provided by the Greater Ohio Workforce Board.
- Virtual Reality Headsets: Fifteen (15) visits to ten (10) school, used by students in 5th–12th grade. Forty-five (45) simulations were available. This wrapped up use of the virtual reality headsets.
- Rapid response lay-off aversion funds in the amount of \$310,277 were awarded to Ohio Logistics to train employees at their Bowling Green, Fostoria, and Fremont facilities. A new warehouse tracking system was being implemented, and employees who didn't pass the training would no longer be employable with the company.
- One hundred ninety-three (193) job orders received, of which thirteen (13) job orders were for first time customers, and the majority were for employers with fifty (50) or less employees.
- TechCred: Employers are reimbursed \$2,000 per credential up to \$30,000 for each of the five (5) application rounds. Twenty-three (23) business in Seneca County were awarded \$637,752.97 for four hundred fifty-four (454) credentials. These were awarded from forty (40) separate applications.
- The first student boot camp was held on March 28 with a focus on the Finance Sector. Thirty-three (33) students participated, Columbian and Hopewell students visited our agency, Croghan Colonial Bank, and Financial Design of Ohio. Fostoria and New Riegel students visited the Fostoria Learning Center, Edward Jones, and 5/3 Bank.



5
New Employers
Participated in the
Manufacturing Showcase



625
Students Attended
the Manufacturing
Showcase

In Our Community



Heavenly Haircuts with Heavenly Pizza and Bless up & Bloom

Child Support Conference



Tiffin University Class Visits the OhioMeansJobs Office

Public Child Services Organization of Ohio Conference



Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Banner in Fostoria



Staff Donations to Local Charities

Foster Parent Recruitment





Contact Us



419-447-5011



800-825-5011



senecadjfs.com



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Thank You

