

Fact Sheet

Ohio Child Welfare University Partnership Program (CWUPP)

Background Points

- 1.) Ohio's CWUPP was established in 2002 as a collaboration among the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the Institute for Human Services (IHS), the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), and the schools of social work at the participating universities.
- 2.) The program is funded by Title IV E training dollars.
- 3.) Ohio's program follows the design put in place in several states to address the following types of challenges for public child welfare:
 - Need to professionalize workforce
 - Difficulties in recruiting and retention
 - Need to reduce turnover
 - Minimize expenditures in time and dollars for training new workers

Operations

- 1.) BSW and MSW students may apply for admission to the program.
- 2.) Among the requirements, all CWUPP students must successfully complete specially designed child welfare college courses that cover Ohio's "Core Module" training for caseworkers (except for the Legal Module). Students must also complete a Field Practicum in an Ohio public children service agency (PCSA).
- 3.) After successfully earning their degrees, graduates seek employment in an Ohio PCSA within a 180 day target period. Once hired by a PCSA:
 - The student will receive a \$5,000 incentive payment stipend for each year of successfully completed.
 - CWUPP participation up to a maximum of two (2) years.
 - For each payment of \$5,000 received, the graduate must commit to one year of employment in an Ohio PCSA.
 - The processing of payments (and recollections if needed) are handled by the participating universities and ODJFS.
- 4.) As of 2010, the CWUPP program is available at the following universities: University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University
- 5.) Each university employs a Campus Coordinator to serve as mentor and advisor for the student and liaison between the school and the PCSAs in the region. Most Campus Coordinators and the university instructors who teach the child welfare courses have had direct experience in public child welfare work.

Current Status

- 1.) Ohio's CWUPP program continues to grow stronger year-by-year. Recent

developments have included positive evaluation outcomes, more standardization and the implementation of a computerized data tracking system, developed by the Institute for Human Services (IHS).

2.) Each year, between 50 and 60 CWUPP students successfully complete the program and a large majority of these graduates seek PCSA employment.

3.) Ohio's PCSAs are the prime beneficiaries of CWUPP. Through this program, universities are offering to play a key role in the recruitment, training and early professional development of the next wave of casework staff. These services are provided with no direct fee for the PCSA, but with the opportunity for considerable input into how CWUPP operates in every region and across the state.

Note: Fact sheet compiled with the use, in part, of resource information developed by Linda Helm, ACSW (Ohio State University CWUPP Campus Coordinator) and Kelly Knight, MSW (Franklin County Children Services Child Welfare Supervisor).