



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)	
All Governmental Fund Types	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024.....	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024.....	6
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)	
All Governmental Fund Types	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023.....	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023.....	14
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	21

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Marion County Family and Children First Council
Marion County
810 Kenton Ave
Marion, Ohio 43302

To the Members of the Council:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Marion County Family and Children First Council, Marion County, Ohio (the Council), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Council, as of years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Council, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Council on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 24, 2025, on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

November 24, 2025

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**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental	<u>\$ 96,105</u>	<u>\$ 100,098</u>	<u>\$ 196,203</u>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>96,105</u>	<u>100,098</u>	<u>196,203</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	71,903	-	71,903
Contractual Services	19,697	111,672	131,369
Supplies	146	-	146
Travel/Training	150	-	150
Other	4,258	-	4,258
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>96,154</u>	<u>111,672</u>	<u>207,826</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(49)</u>	<u>(11,574)</u>	<u>(11,623)</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>280,856</u>	<u>44,003</u>	<u>324,859</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 280,807</u>	<u>\$ 32,429</u>	<u>\$ 313,236</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and permitted counties to establish county family and children first councils. Statutory membership of a county council consists of the following individuals:

1. At least three individuals representing the interest of families in the County. Where possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty percent of the Council's remaining membership;
2. The Director of the Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services that serves the County, or, in the case of a County that has a Board of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and a Community Mental Health Board, the Directors of both Boards. If a Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services covers more than one County, the Director may designate a person to participate on the County's Council;
3. The Health Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, of the Board of Health of each City or General Health District in the County. If the County has two or more health districts, the Health Commissioner membership may be limited to the Commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations;
4. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
5. The Executive Director of the public children services agency or the County agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.15;
6. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent as more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
7. The Superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the County, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education, which shall notify each County of its determination at least biennially;
8. A School Superintendent representing all other school districts with territory in the County, as designated at a biennial meeting of the superintendents of those districts;
9. A representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
10. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
11. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
12. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;
13. A representative of the County's Early Intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004"; and
14. A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 1 – Reporting Entity (Continued)

A County Family and Children First Council may invite any other local public or private agency or group that funds, advocates, or provides services to children to have a representative become a permanent or temporary member of the Council.

The purpose of the County Council is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. In seeking to fulfill its purpose, a County Council shall provide for the following:

1. Referrals to the Cabinet Council of those children for whom the County Council cannot provide adequate services;
2. Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
3. Participation in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families, as established pursuant to federal grants received and administered by the Department of Health for early intervention services under the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004”;
4. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council’s progress in achieving results for families and children; and
5. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Council are presented below:

General Fund - The General Fund is the operating fund of the Council. It is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - These funds are used to account for and report specific revenue sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes. The Council had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Help Me Grow Grant Fund - This fund receives federal and state monies to provide families with services and support such as prenatal visits, newborn visits, ongoing home visits and support from other parents.

Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37(B)(5)(a) requires the Council to select an administrative agent to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Council. The Council has selected the Marion County Auditor to serve as the fiscal agent and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners to serve as the administrative agent. The Council authorizes the Marion County Auditor and Marion County Board of County Commissioners, as fiscal agent and administrative agent, to subcontract with, designate, and/or seek assistance from any agencies and/or organizations that it deems necessary in order to complete the obligations set forth in the agreement. The Marion County Auditor and Marion County Board of County Commissioners agree to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October 1, 1997, all Family and Children First Councils are required to file an annual budget with its administrative agent. The Council filed an estimate of financial resources and an appropriation measure with the Marion County Auditor as required by Ohio law. This estimate is adopted by the Council and the Marion County Commissioners. The Council and County Commissioners approve any changes made to this estimate during the year. The County Commissioners ensure that the Council's expenditures do not exceed appropriations.

Deposits and Investments

The Council designated the Marion County Auditor as the fiscal agent for all funds received in the name of the Council. Deposits of monies are made with the Marion County Treasurer and fund expenditures and balances are reported through the Marion County Auditor. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount.

Capital Assets

The Council records cash disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant and equipment when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Accumulated Leave

Council employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Leases and SBITAs

The Council is the lessee in various leases (as defined by GASB 87) relating to buildings, vehicles, and other equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

The Council has entered into noncancelable Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - The Council classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Council.

Restricted - Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by Council for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amount is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending for specific purposes for which amounts have been restricted, committed, or assigned.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 9.

Note 3 – Deposits and Investments

The Marion County Auditor, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash and investments pool used by all of the Marion County Auditor's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments and Marion County Auditor is responsible for compliance. The carrying amount of deposits and investments December 31, 2024 was \$313,236.

The fiscal agent is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the fiscal agent's pooled and deposit accounts. All risks associated with the above deposits are the responsibility of the fiscal agent.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2024 is as follows:

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 160,721	\$ 96,105	\$ (64,616)
Special Revenue	138,000	100,098	(37,902)
Total	<u>\$ 298,721</u>	<u>\$ 196,203</u>	<u>\$ (102,518)</u>

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 192,044	\$ 117,133	\$ 74,911
Special Revenue	151,729	144,100	7,629
Total	<u>\$ 343,773</u>	<u>\$ 261,233</u>	<u>\$ 82,540</u>

Note 5 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

The Council participates in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The Traditional Pension Plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The Member-Directed Plan is a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20 percent per year). Under the Member-Directed Plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of the member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings. The Combined Plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Under the Combined Plan, OPERS invests employer contributions to provide a formula retirement benefit similar in nature to, but less than, the Traditional Pension Plan benefit. Member contributions, the investment of which is self-directed by the members, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the Member-Directed Plan.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 5 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Continued)

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/investments/cafr.shtml>, writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 614-222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

The Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions and currently limits the employer contribution to a rate not to exceed 14 percent of covered payroll for state and local employer units. Member contribution rates, as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code, are not to exceed 10 percent of covered payroll for members in State and local divisions. Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Council is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The Council has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Note 6 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. For calendar year 2024, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 7 – Risk Pool Membership

The Marion County Commissioners maintain comprehensive insurance coverage with the County Risk Sharing Authority (COPSA), a self-insurance pool which obtains private carrier insurance agreements for real property, building contents and vehicles. Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage. The Council is covered by these policies.

Note 8 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Council are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are encumbrances, which are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 20,979	\$ 32,428	\$ 53,407
Total	<u>\$ 20,979</u>	<u>\$ 32,428</u>	<u>\$ 53,407</u>

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Note 9 – Fund Balances (Continued)

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 10 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021, while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. The Council will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Intergovernmental	<u>\$ 119,728</u>	<u>\$ 154,093</u>	<u>\$ 273,821</u>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>119,728</u>	<u>154,093</u>	<u>273,821</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	67,991	-	67,991
Contractual Services	15,962	150,310	166,272
Supplies	33	-	33
Equipment	649	-	649
Other	4,204	-	4,204
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>88,839</u>	<u>150,310</u>	<u>239,149</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>30,889</u>	<u>3,783</u>	<u>34,672</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>249,967</u>	<u>40,220</u>	<u>290,187</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 280,856</u>	<u>\$ 44,003</u>	<u>\$ 324,859</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 created the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council and permitted counties to establish county family and children first councils. Statutory membership of a county council consists of the following individuals:

1. At least three individuals representing the interest of families in the County. Where possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty percent of the Council's remaining membership;
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3. The Health Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, of the Board of Health of each City or General Health District in the County. If the County has two or more health districts, the Health Commissioner membership may be limited to the Commissioners of the two districts with the largest populations;
4. The Director of the County Department of Job and Family Services;
5. The Executive Director of the public children services agency or the County agency responsible for the administration of children services pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.15;
6. The Superintendent of the County Board of Developmental Disabilities or if the Superintendent serves as Superintendent as more than one County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Superintendent's designee;
7. The Superintendent of the city, exempted village, or local school district with the largest number of pupils residing in the County, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education, which shall notify each County of its determination at least biennially;
8. A School Superintendent representing all other school districts with territory in the County, as designated at a biennial meeting of the superintendents of those districts;
9. A representative of the municipal corporation with the largest population in the County;
10. The President of the Board of County Commissioners or an individual designated by the Board;
11. A representative of the regional office of the Ohio Department of Youth Services;
12. A representative of the County's Head Start agencies, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3301.32;
13. A representative of the County's Early Intervention collaborative established pursuant to the federal early intervention program operated under the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004"; and
14. A representative of a local nonprofit entity that funds, advocates, or provides services to children and families.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 1 – Reporting Entity (Continued)

A County Family and Children First Council may invite any other local public or private agency or group that funds, advocates, or provides services to children to have a representative become a permanent or temporary member of the Council.

The purpose of the County Council is to streamline and coordinate existing government services for families seeking services for their children. In seeking to fulfill its purpose, a County Council shall provide for the following:

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2. Development and implementation of a process that annually evaluates and prioritizes services, fills service gaps where possible, and invents new approaches to achieve better results for families and children;
3. Participation in the development of a countywide, comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary interagency system for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities or delays and their families, as established pursuant to federal grants received and administered by the Department of Health for early intervention services under the “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004”;
4. Maintenance of an accountability system to monitor the County Council’s progress in achieving results for families and children; and
5. Establishment of a mechanism to ensure ongoing input from a broad representation of families who are receiving services within the County system.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting

The Council uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Council are presented below:

General Fund - The General Fund is the operating fund of the Council. It is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - These funds are used to account for and report specific revenue sources (other than from trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes. The Council had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Help Me Grow Grant Fund - This fund receives federal and state monies to provide families with services and support such as prenatal visits, newborn visits, ongoing home visits and support from other parents.

Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37(B)(5)(a) requires the Council to select an administrative agent to provide fiscal and administrative services to the Council. The Council has selected the Marion County Auditor to serve as the fiscal agent and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners to serve as the administrative agent. The Council authorizes the Marion County Auditor and Marion County Board of County Commissioners, as fiscal agent and administrative agent, to subcontract with, designate, and/or seek assistance from any agencies and/or organizations that it deems necessary in order to complete the obligations set forth in the agreement. The Marion County Auditor and Marion County Board of County Commissioners agree to be ultimately responsible for fulfilling the fiscal and administrative obligations of the agreement.

Budgetary Process

A Family and Children First Council established under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37 is not a taxing authority and is not subject to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705. As of October 1, 1997, all Family and Children First Councils are required to file an annual budget with its administrative agent. The Council filed an estimate of financial resources and an appropriation measure with the Marion County Auditor as required by Ohio law. This estimate is adopted by the Council and the Marion County Commissioners. The Council and County Commissioners approve any changes made to this estimate during the year. The County Commissioners ensure that the Council's expenditures do not exceed appropriations.

Deposits and Investments

The Council designated the Marion County Auditor as the fiscal agent for all funds received in the name of the Council. Deposits of monies are made with the Marion County Treasurer and fund expenditures and balances are reported through the Marion County Auditor. Deposits and investments are made in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at the fiscal agent's carrying amount.

Capital Assets

The Council records cash disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant and equipment when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Leases and SBITAs

The Council is the lessee in various leases (as defined by GASB 87) relating to buildings, vehicles, and other equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

The Council has entered into noncancelable Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - The Council classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Council.

Restricted - Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by Council for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amount is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from the overspending for specific purposes for which amounts have been restricted, committed, or assigned.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

The Council applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 9.

Note 3 – Deposits and Investments

The Marion County Auditor, as fiscal agent for the Council, maintains a cash and investments pool used by all of the Marion County Auditor's funds, including those of the Council. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments and Marion County Auditor is responsible for compliance. The carrying amount of deposits and investments December 31, 2023 was \$324,859.

The fiscal agent is responsible for maintaining adequate depository collateral for all funds in the fiscal agent's pooled and deposit accounts. All risks associated with the above deposits are the responsibility of the fiscal agent.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2023 is as follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 131,518	\$ 119,728	\$ (11,790)
Special Revenue	165,000	154,093	(10,907)
Total	<u>\$ 296,518</u>	<u>\$ 273,821</u>	<u>\$ (22,697)</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 145,795	\$ 120,459	\$ 25,336
Special Revenue	173,718	167,310	6,408
Total	<u>\$ 295,970</u>	<u>\$ 287,769</u>	<u>\$ 31,744</u>

Note 5 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

The Council participates in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The Traditional Pension Plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The Member-Directed Plan is a defined contribution plan in which the member invests both member and employer contributions (employer contributions vest over five years at 20 percent per year). Under the Member-Directed Plan, members accumulate retirement assets equal to the value of the member and vested employer contributions plus any investment earnings. The Combined Plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. Under the Combined Plan, OPERS invests employer contributions to provide a formula retirement benefit similar in nature to, but less than, the Traditional Pension Plan benefit. Member contributions, the investment of which is self-directed by the members, accumulate retirement assets in a manner similar to the Member-Directed Plan.

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 5 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Continued)

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the Traditional Pension and Combined Plans. Members of the Member-Directed Plan do not qualify for ancillary benefits. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/investments/cafr.shtml>, writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 614-222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

The Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions and currently limits the employer contribution to a rate not to exceed 14 percent of covered payroll for state and local employer units. Member contribution rates, as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code, are not to exceed 10 percent of covered payroll for members in State and local divisions. Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Council is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The Council has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 6 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 7 – Risk Pool Membership

The Marion County Commissioners maintain comprehensive insurance coverage with the County Risk Sharing Authority (COPSA), a self-insurance pool which obtains private carrier insurance agreements for real property, building contents and vehicles. Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage. The Council is covered by these policies.

Note 8 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Council are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 9 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are encumbrances, which are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 31,620	\$ 17,000	\$ 48,620
Total	\$ 31,620	\$ 17,000	\$ 48,620

**MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Note 9 – Fund Balances (Continued)

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Note 10 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021, while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. The Council will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Marion County Family and Children First Council
Marion County
810 Kenton Ave
Marion, Ohio 43302

To the Members of the Council:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type of the Marion County Family and Children First Council, Marion County, Ohio (the Council) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 24, 2025, wherein we noted the Council followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Council's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Marion County Family and Children First Council
Marion County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

November 24, 2025

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



MARION COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

MARION COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 12/16/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov