

## **Definitions of Service/Support Categories:**

**Non-Clinical In Home Parent/Child Coaching:** Parent/Child Coaching is a non-clinical intensive program where a parent coach works with the family in the home to improve parenting and communication skills, address specific behavior, and reduce family stress through a strengths-based, individual family-centered approach. The coach and family develop a plan together to achieve individual family goals. The Parenting Coach provides support and guidance while providing developmental stages information, observing current family functioning, modeling effective parenting and communication skills and encouraging parents as they build skills and confidence in their parenting abilities. Issues addressed may include developing positive parent/child relationships, family communication, establishing family boundaries and rules, problem solving, age appropriate /effective discipline techniques, school concerns, and managing feelings, stress and family time.

**Parent Education:** Parent education is provided in a group or classroom setting. The curriculum used provides guidance in developing and practicing positive parenting techniques. Goals of the program include increasing parents' confidence and competence in enhancing their children's development, learning and social skills. Included are age appropriate/effective discipline techniques, knowledge of child development stages, and establishing age-appropriate parental expectations. Issues addressed may include developing positive parent/child relationships, family communication, establishing family boundaries and rules, problem solving, school concerns, and managing feelings, stress and family time.

**Mentoring:** Mentoring is a developmental partnership through which one person shares knowledge, skills, information, perspective and friendship to foster the personal growth of someone else. It is a relationship between an experienced person and a less experienced person for the purpose of helping the one with less experience by providing wisdom, guidance and support. It can be provided in multiple settings, such as in the home, school or other community locations.

**Transportation:** Transportation assistance is provided to a family to accommodate the family in getting from one place to another that is essential for accomplishing a necessary life function. It can be in the form of funds for gasoline, cab/bus/other public transportation fare.

**Social/Recreational Supports:** Social /Recreational Supports are activities that provide social or recreational outlets for children and/or their families that will improve social/recreational functioning/skills and increase social/recreational opportunities for the child/families. Acceptable examples of this would be participation in sports (participation fees/equipment), clubs (fees/materials to participate), creative arts activities (participation and materials fees), games (inside and outside), community recreational activities, personal hobbies, camps (for social/recreational purposes, and not for the purpose of respite for caregivers) etc.

Camp includes day camp or overnight camp. Overnight camp is limited to 6 days per year per child; however there is no limit for day camp.

**Structured Activities to Improve Family Functioning:** This category includes activities that support the family's ability to interact more effectively with each other in areas such as: problem solving, communication, and family roles. Activities typically involve togetherness of the family unit. It can include such things as playing board games together, family outings, planting and harvesting a family garden, cooking a meal together, an educational walk or bike tour, or a family picnic.

**Non-Clinical Parent Support Groups:** Non-clinical parent support groups offer Peer-to-Peer Support. Groups may be provided in a structured or informal setting. Leadership typically comes from parents who have personal experience in the focus area of the support group (i.e. those parents who have "been there"). Groups may be facilitated by a trained parent/consumer but the types of help offered in a peer to peer support group are considered nonprofessional. These groups provide opportunities for parents to network/interact, share experiences, provide peer support and lessen any feelings of isolation. Nonclinical parent support groups do NOT include group therapy sessions or those support groups that require the participation, facilitation, and/or leadership skills of a trained clinician.

**Respite (including Camps):** the temporary care of children by someone other than the primary caregiver(s), where the primary purpose is to provide relief for the primary caregivers. "Temporary" is defined as one week or less (i.e., 7 consecutive days). Respite care can be provided in the home of the child or family, or at another location. Respite can be provided by a relative or non-relative. Respite care does not involve a change of custody. Respite does not include an out-of-home placement where one or more publicly-funded systems assist in the planning for or placement of children or adolescents outside of their homes, or other placement into one of the following: psychiatric hospital, detention center, residential treatment facility, local or state correctional facility, foster care, group home or clinically based interventions.

**Camp used as respite for caregivers** includes day camp or overnight camp. Overnight camp is limited to 6 days per year per child; however there is no limit for day camp. FCSS can be used to support nontherapeutic structured camp activities designed to provide respite. When camp is primarily used as respite for the caregivers, it should be reported in the Respite category.

**Safety and Adaptive Equipment:** Adaptive equipment includes [devices](#) that are used to assist children with physical or mental disabilities in completing [activities of daily living](#). Typically, a piece of adaptive equipment is utilized to increase a child's level of functioning. Examples of adaptive equipment or assistive technology are wheelchairs, lifts, ramps, standing frames, gait trainers, augmentative devices to assist with communication, bath chairs and recreational items such as swings or tricycles. Safety equipment would be those items that reduce a child's risk of injury while involved in typical life activities.

Care must be taken to insure that FCSS funds are not used to fund types of equipment that are considered medical equipment, are eligible to be paid for through Medicaid, are the responsibility of the schools to provide for children on an IEP, or that could or should be provided through another government or community non-profit organization.

**Parent Advocacy** – Parent advocates assist families in service coordination to navigate the various child serving systems in which their children may be involved, to research their options available to them, and to work effectively with professionals to achieve the best outcomes for their children. They support families by helping to enhance the parents' advocacy skills and by encouraging them to speak on behalf of their children and families. Advocates attend school meeting, juvenile court hearings, case reviews and treatment team meetings with the family. Advocates also inform and educate families about the FCF service coordination process and other services available to them in their communities.

**Child with multi-systemic needs** – a child who has needs in two or more of the following service systems (but need not be enrolled or receiving services from either or both systems): substance abuse, child welfare, job and family services (i.e., public assistance), education, juvenile justice, mental health, developmental disabilities. In order to utilize FCSS funding, children/families must receive service coordination through the county Families and Children First Council

**Individual Family Service Coordination Plan (IFSCP)** – The individual family service coordination plan is a unique written family plan developed with the participation of a family that is accepted into the FCFC service coordination process. The IFSCP for a family is based on the results of the family strengths and needs assessment that was completed with family participation, voice and choice. Each family plan must identify the family's needs that were discovered through the strengths and needs assessment process. The family plan must also identify the services, supports, activities, objectives, timelines, and responsible parties as determined by the family team to address the identified needs of the family. The required service coordination process and components are described in ORC 121.37, the Service Coordination Mechanism Guidance found on the OFCF website ([www.fcf.ohio.org](http://www.fcf.ohio.org)) and the county FCFC Service Coordination Mechanism. This service coordination process, including the individual family plan development, process and outcomes, must be monitored by the FCFC.