

# Community Response

## What is Community Response?

- Reports to DCBS that *do not meet criteria for assessment*, or services that have an identified need, are referred to a community-based agency to offer supports or resources to the family
- Overall goal is to strengthen families, prevent family trauma, and reduce the need for future reports to DCBS.
- Connecting families to community-based resources and supports, as soon as the need arises, prevents poor family outcomes, including additional trauma and family separation.

## Why Community Response?

- Less than half of reports to DCBS meet criteria for any type of service or response.
- Historically families have not been referred for other services in a meaningful or structured way.
- Mandated reporters may falsely assume that the family's need have been addressed.
- It is the greatest missed opportunity for true prevention of poor family outcomes and traumatic experiences.
- Services are voluntary but also intended to *"plant the seed"* and connect families with services available within their own communities.
- A Reduction of future reports to DCBS allows CPS staff to focus on the most critical safety issues.
- The work family-centered families and works to prevent unnecessary involvement with the child welfare system.

## Needs met with Community Response:

- Parent Skill Building
- Appropriate Discipline
- Improving Behaviors of High-Risk Youth
- Caregiver / Child Relationship including behavior management
- Supporting Relatives / Fictive Kin (if DCBS does not have an active case)
- Poverty Adjacent Family Barriers
- Early education needs and supervision planning
- Home environment needs
- Barriers to accessing medical, dental, and mental health treatment
- Substance use psychoeducation, developing healthy coping skills
- Barriers to school attendance or performance
- Legal needs
- Language or literacy barriers to accessing services
- General Concerns regarding family's access to needed services, resources, or supports

## Community Response Pilot Sites:

- Montgomery, Clark, Powell, Bath, and Rowan counties are being served in partnership with Gateway Children's Services
- Kenton, Campbell and Boone Co. are being served through the Brighton Center.
- FRYSC partnerships in Barren and Perry counties
- DCBS Central Intake staff will refer families to these community-based providers.
- Formal program evaluation is currently underway to assess effectiveness and inform next steps