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GRANTS TO FUND OHIO HOUSE BILL 50 BRIDGES PROGRAM AWARDED TO CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Bridges Program Extends Supports to Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio has been awarded a grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to provide housing and supportive services to young adults who age out of foster care. The program, titled Bridges, is scheduled to be implemented statewide on February 1, 2018. It is authorized by Ohio House Bill 50, the Ohio Fostering Connections Act, which was signed into law by Governor John Kasich on June 13, 2016.

The Bridges program will be available to the approximately 3,000 young adults in Ohio who aged out of foster care, and are between the ages of 18 and 21, as they strive toward independence. The Bridges program provides a package of services to help these young people prepare for college or a career and healthy living, as well as provide for their housing. The direct services of Bridges will be carried out by a statewide network of community providers with expertise in working with foster youth and young adults making the transition to adulthood.

“This grant will accelerate our work to connect young adults in Ohio to the resources and services they need to live independently,” said Mark Mecum, CEO of The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio, and its parent organization, the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies. “Community agencies will be equipped with training, funding, and resources to help this vulnerable population of bright young people. We are committed to the Bridges program’s success.”

A new website, [bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov](http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov), has been launched by ODJFS for the Bridges program, to provide interested participants with enrollment and eligibility information.

The Collaborative is partnering with United Healthcare Services to provide network management of the statewide network of community providers, as well as administrative, marketing and communications services.

“Working with the best in class providers in The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio

we will help identify the right administrative and social support to help former foster youth in Ohio on their journey to adulthood,” said Tracy Davidson, CEO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio.

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About [The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio](#)

The Collaborative was formed in March of 2017 to foster collaborations between health plans, government, and child and family service providers. The Collaborative is a social enterprise of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, which itself was founded in 1973 as Ohio’s first nonprofit statewide child advocacy organization.

[Ohio Bridges Website](#)