

Ottawa County Department of Human Services



Annual Plan 2011

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State of Michigan

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Community Partners Login

Am I Eligible?

Apply for Benefits!

- > Food Assistance
- > Medical Assistance
- > Cash Assistance
- > Child Care
- > Emergency Services

View My Case

- > Check My Benefits
- > Report My Changes
- > Upload My Documents

If you do not have a user id and password, click on 'Apply For Benefits' or 'View My Case' to create an account.

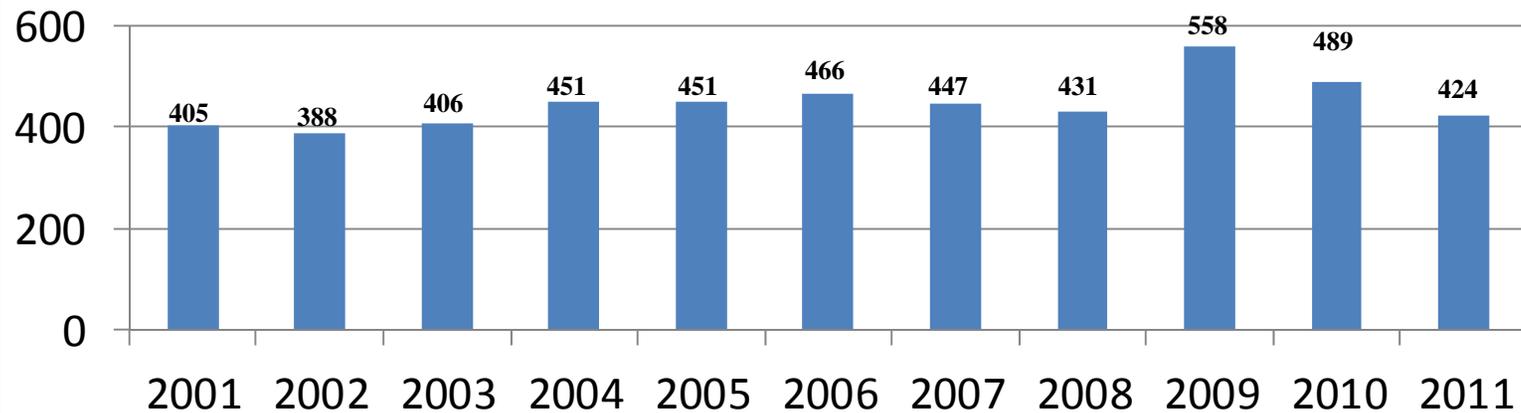
If you have not used a computer very much and would like to practice before you get started, [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to see MIBridges training videos.

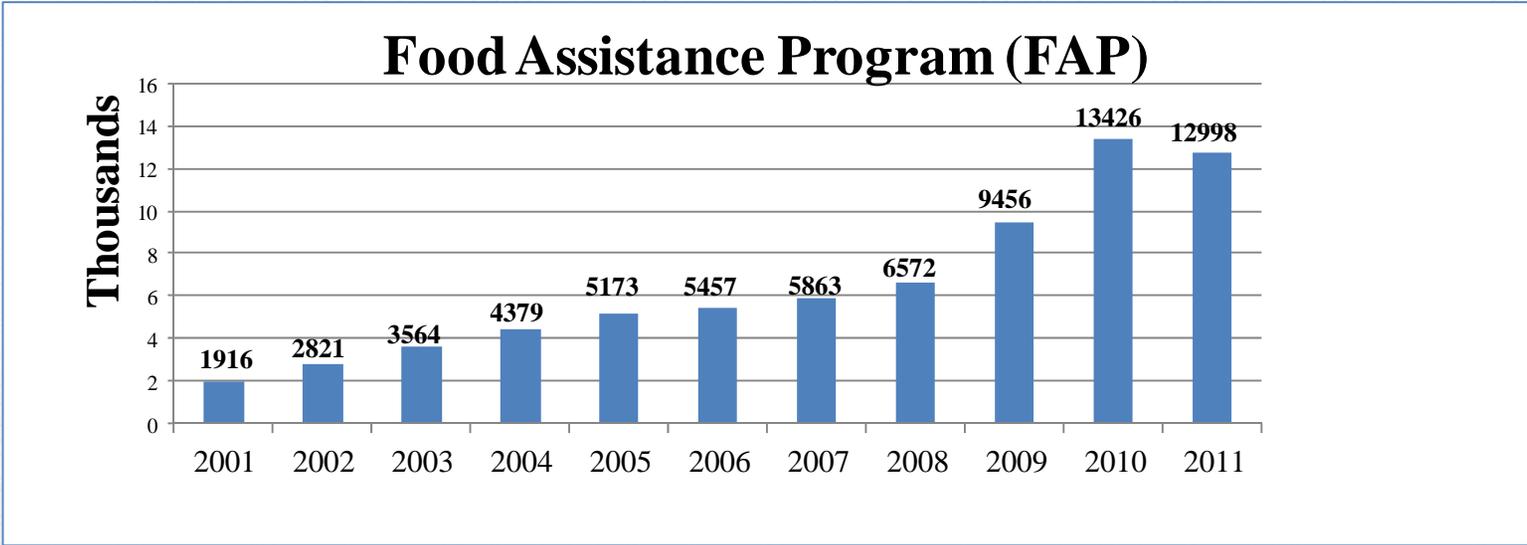
Ottawa County DHS provides Cash Assistance

- Family Independence Program (FIP)
 - Food Assistance Program (FAP)
 - Child Development and Care (CDC)
 - State Disability Assistance (SDA)
 - State Emergency Relief (SER)
-

FIP Caseload



- The goal of the Family Independence Program (FIP) is to help families achieve self-support and independence, and to reduce dependence on public assistance. The Family Independence Program provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women who meet income and asset requirements. FIP recipients may be assigned to the Jobs, Education, and Training (JET) program for assistance in finding a job or to develop needed job skills.
 - In November 2011 DHS implemented the 48/60 month time limit for cash assistance. Ottawa County had 10 families affected by this change. These 10 families included 7 parents with disabled children, 2 parents who were disabled with work limitations and 1 family experiencing Domestic Violence. Ottawa County will not have any more families affected by this change until September 2012. A plan has been put in place to assist families reaching their time limits.
 - **The average FIP payment per family in Ottawa County in FY 2011 was \$377 per month.**
 - **Ottawa County families received \$1,917,863 in total FIP payments during 2011.**
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The Food Assistance Program provides financial assistance to increase the food purchasing power of low-income households. Families obtain their benefits through the Bridge Card.

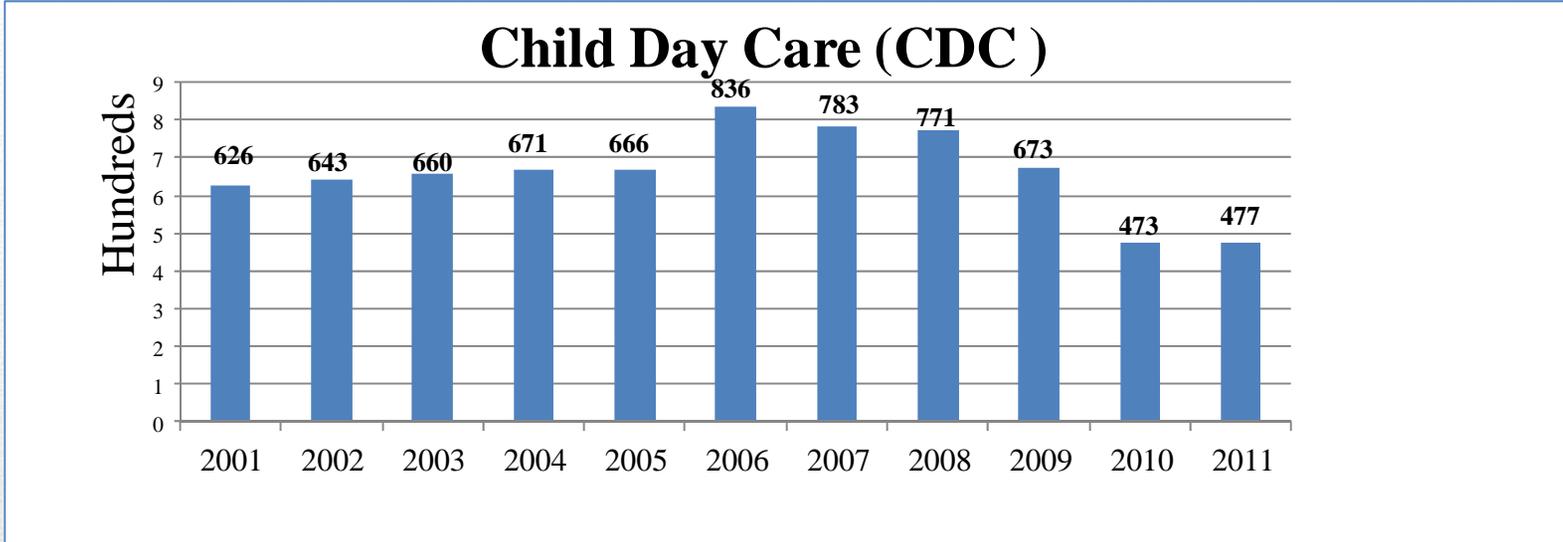
Effective October 1, 2011, a household of 4 with a monthly net income of \$2,223 or less, qualified for benefits. (The maximum monthly FAP benefit for a family of four is \$668 with zero income; the minimum is \$2. FAP benefits decrease as income increases.

In March 2011, DHS placed new restrictions on a college students ability to receive food assistance. As a result of this change, Ottawa County closed 2,390 food cases in March. Currently, we have 781 college students receiving food assistance. In October 2011, DHS began counting assets for food assistance. In January 2012, a small adjustment was made to exclude one vehicle.

Food assistance cases have been steadily decreasing during the year with a high of 14,432 cases in January to a low of 11,279 cases in December.



In 2011, monthly FAP benefits averaged \$121 per person in Ottawa County. Ottawa County citizens received \$40,243,486 in FAP benefits during 2011.



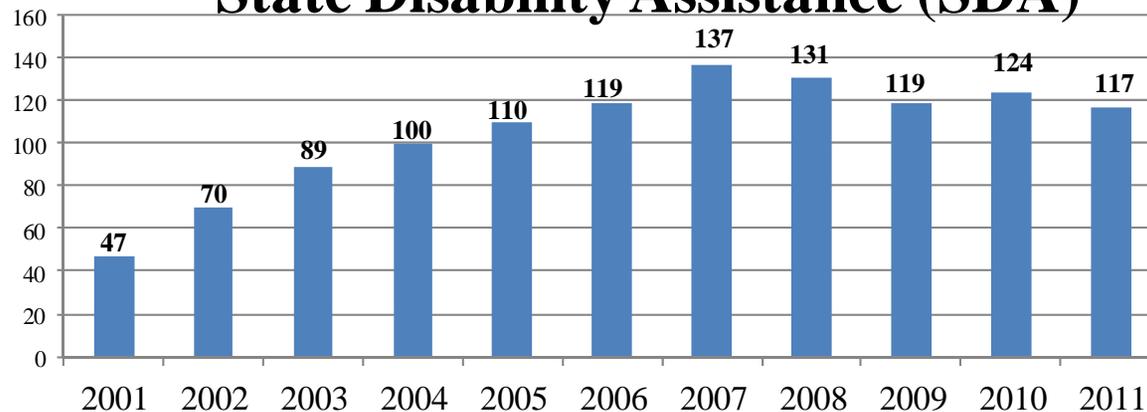
The Child Day Care program provides funding for all or a portion of child day care expenses when the parent, legal guardian, or other caretaker is unavailable to provide child care due to employment, attending high school, GED, or training classes; and/or a health/social condition for which treatment is being received. This program provides payments for children up to age 13. (Note: Children ages 13-18 may receive child care under certain circumstances.)

In June 2011, Governor Snyder transferred the responsibility of the daycare program to the Department of Education. DHS continued to determine eligibility for this program for the remainder of the year but changes are anticipated in the future.



Ottawa County provided CDC payments to an average of 477 families per month during 2011. The average monthly child care payment per family was \$493 per month. The Total Child Day Care payments for FY 2011 in Ottawa County was \$2,765,685.

State Disability Assistance (SDA)



The State Disability Assistance Program is a cash assistance program for disabled individuals without dependent children. To be eligible for this program, the individual must be disabled and unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical or mental disability, be enrolled in special education classes or be a caretaker for an individual who is disabled for at least 90 days and unable to care for themselves as verified by a medical provider.

A typical SDA grant for an individual with no money is \$269 a month for an individual who applied prior to September 30, 2011. Due to state budget cuts, the monthly grant amount was reduced to \$200 a month beginning in October.

**In 2011, Ottawa County DHS averaged 117 recipients a month.
Total funds spent on SDA in Ottawa County for 2011 was \$359,268.**

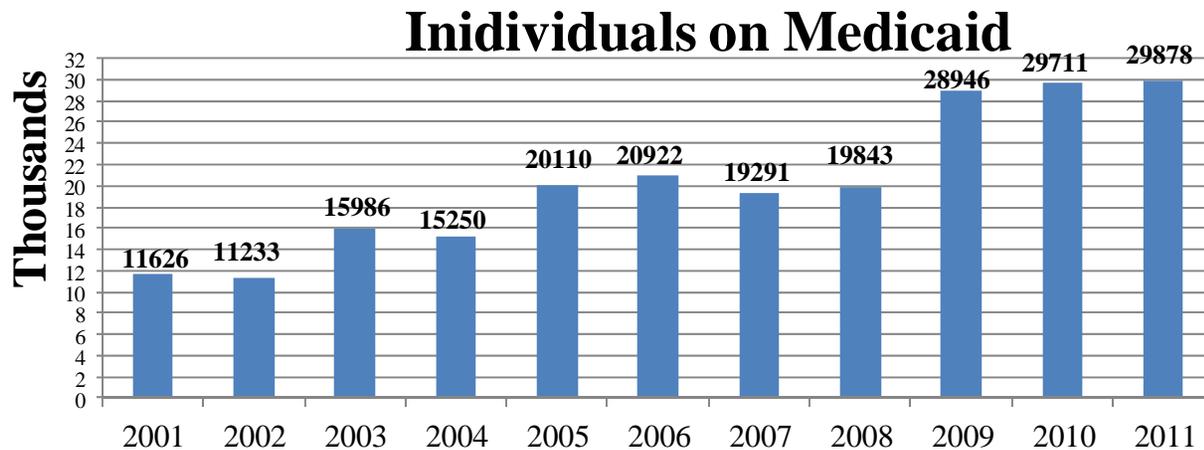
State Emergency Relief (SER)

The State Emergency Relief Program provides limited financial assistance to individuals/families facing emergencies that threaten their health or safety. Covered services include rent payments to avoid homelessness, house payments and property-tax payments when foreclosures or tax sales are imminent, home repairs and utility assistance to shut-offs or to restore service. State Emergency relief is funded both by state and federal funds. Expenses for last year include the following:

	2011	2010
➤ Rental Assistance	\$120,537	\$67,988
➤ Home Ownership (mortgage foreclosures, tax sales)	\$16,949	\$14,454
➤ Utilities (water & Sewer Shut-offs) & Deposits	\$16,203	\$ 9,029
➤ Burial Assistance	\$24,299	\$27,481
➤ Heat Assistance	\$561,402	\$518,232
➤ Electric Assistance	\$823,366	\$759,743
➤ Furnace Repair and Replacement	\$67,927	\$37,174
➤ Total SER payments for 2011	\$1,630,683	

Cash into Ottawa County through DHS programs (FY '11)

➤ Family Independence Program (FIP)	\$ 1,917,863
➤ Food Assistance Program (FAP)	\$40,234,486
➤ Child Day Care Program (CDC)	\$ 2,765,685
➤ State Emergency Relief (SER)	\$ 1,630,683
➤ State Disability Assistance (SDA)	\$ 359,268
➤ TOTAL	\$46,907,985



Medicaid provides necessary health care services to cash and SSI recipients and other low-income, medically-needy persons who are; under the age of 21; pregnant; disabled; blind; or age 65 and older. Although Medicaid in Michigan is administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Medicaid eligibility is determined by DHS according to an individual's or family's income and assets. There are over 30 different Medicaid categories in Michigan to help low-income families and individuals access the medical care they need. Eligible clients receive a MI-Health Card, which verifies Medicaid eligibility for medical providers. This is a federal and state funded program.

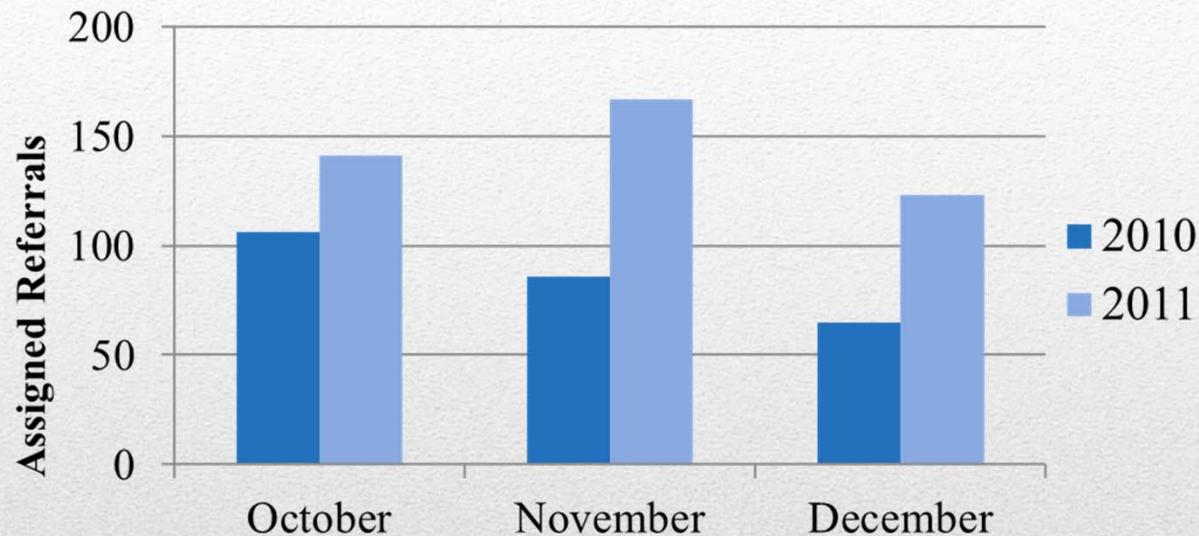
At the end of 2011, Ottawa County had 29,659 individuals active for Medicaid.



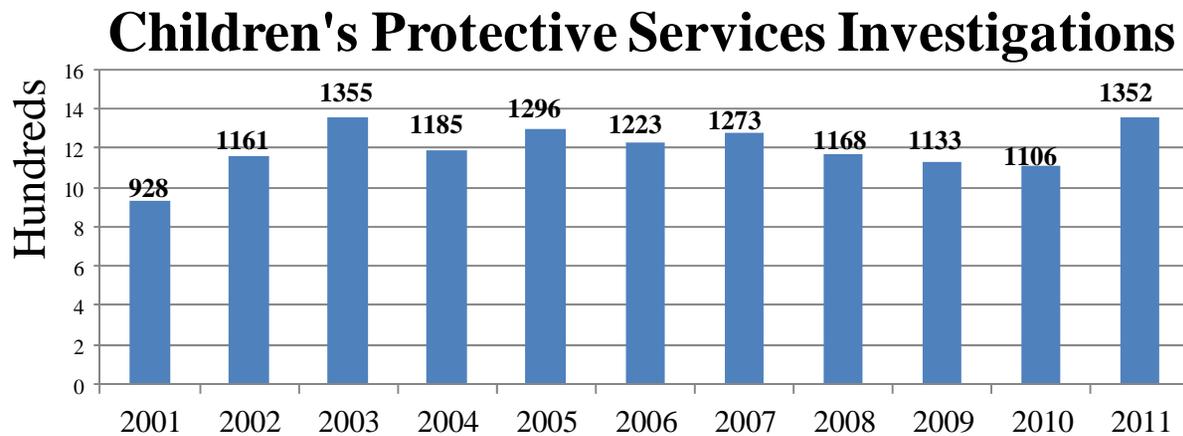
Ottawa County DHS provides Individual and Family Services

- Protective Services for Children
 - Foster Care & Foster Home Licensing
 - Prevention Services
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Adult Independent Living Services
 - Adult Community Placement Services
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Centralized Intake

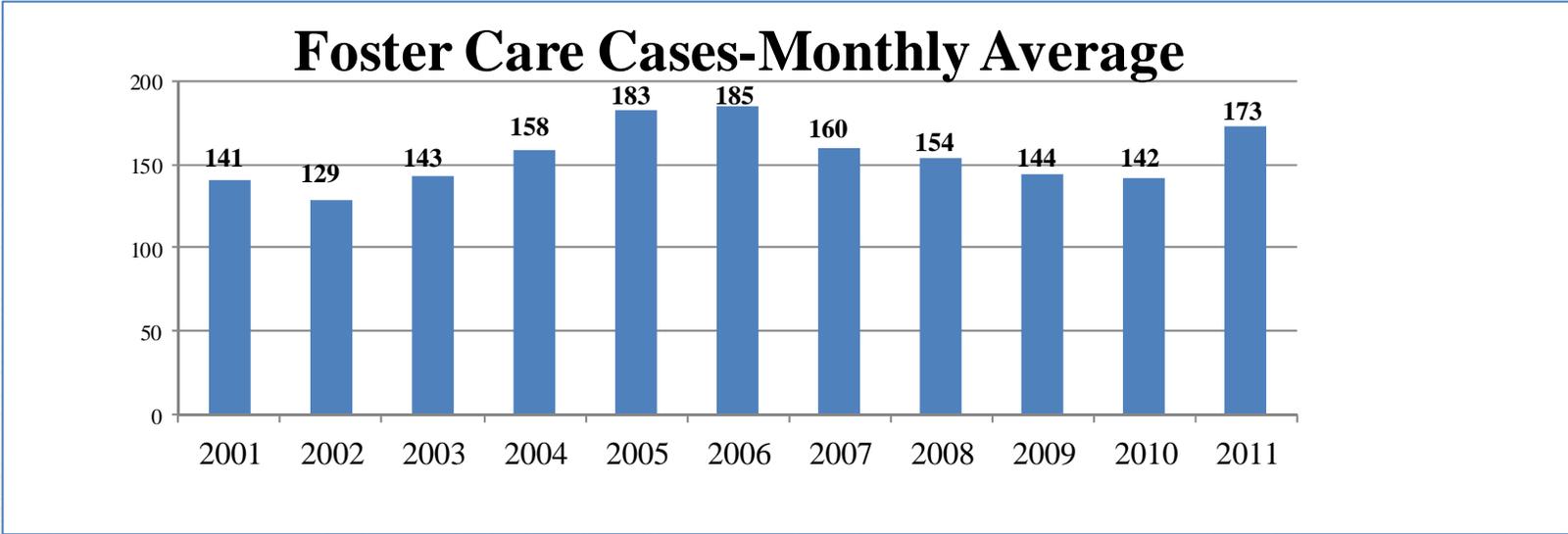


On September 12, 2011, Ottawa County began participating in the Centralized CPS intake process. Over the past several months, Ottawa County has seen a 53% increase in the number of assigned referrals for investigation. Some of this increase is being seen statewide but much of it is related to the standardization of threatened harm to children.



Children's Protective Services (CPS) investigates or remedies abuse, neglect or exploitation of children under the age of 18 when the alleged perpetrator is a parent, legal guardian or an adult who is responsible for the child's health or welfare. Anyone may make a complaint if abuse or neglect is suspected. DHS has only investigative authority, enforcement authority is with the police and the courts. Services do not apply to the unborn.

In FY 2011, Ottawa County DHS received 2,794 CPS referrals. Of that number, 1,352 (48%) were assigned for abuse/neglect investigations. From the completed investigations, 78 petitions were filed involving 151 children. 103 of these children were removed and placed in out-of-home care, which is a placement percentage of 68%.



The Children’s Foster Care staff provides placement, supervision and monitoring services for children in foster care who cannot remain in their own homes due to abuse or neglect. A primary goal of the foster care staff is to reunite children with their families. If this is not possible, workers will petition the courts to have parental rights terminated and adoption may become the goal. Funding is provided by a combination of federal, state and/or county appropriations depending on the family’s eligibility.

In 2011, Ottawa County DHS averaged 173 children in foster care.

In October 2011, there were 183 children in foster care.

Of that number 60% were supervised by private agency staff and 40% by DHS staff.

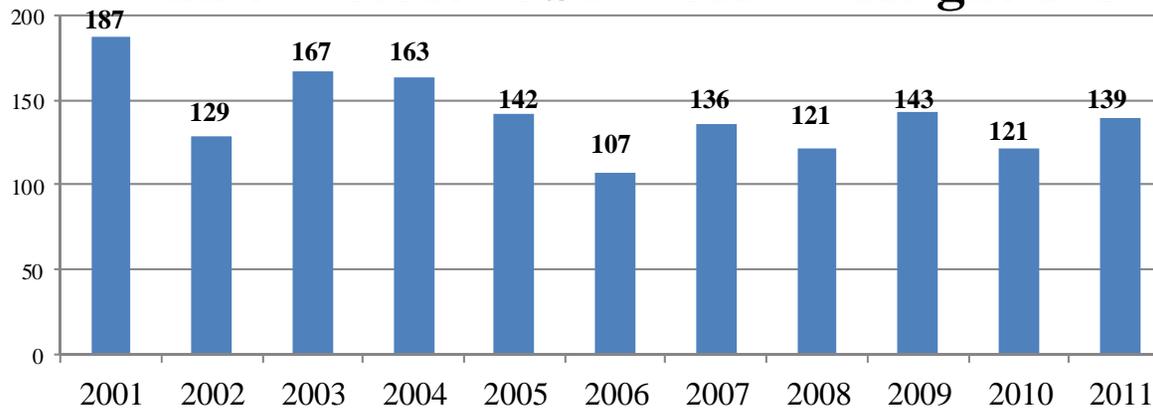


Prevention Services

Prevention Services are family-based services which connect the family with community resources to prevent child abuse and neglect. Ottawa County DHS provides these services directly by a Prevention caseworker that works half-time, by collaborating with community resources and by purchasing the following prevention services:

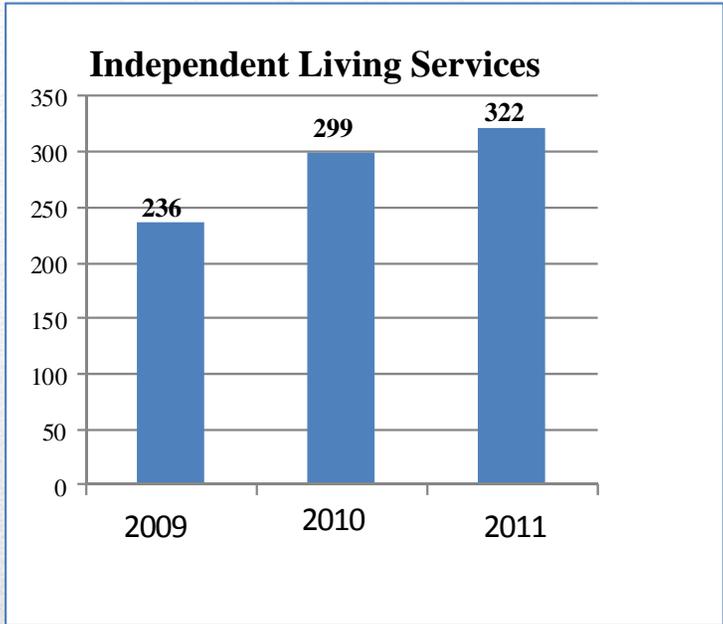
➤ Families First	\$303,248
➤ Counseling	\$177,322
➤ Families Together Building Solutions	\$150,000
➤ Emergency Shelter	\$ 30,000
➤ Family Reunification Program	\$235,530

Adult Protective Services Investigations



Adult Protective Services is a critical program that requires extensive coordination with, and support from, mental health, public health and law enforcement agencies; the probate courts; the aging network, and the general public. Program staff investigate allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation and provide protection to vulnerable adults.

The goal of the Adult Protective Services Program is to assist those persons 18 years or older who have been abused, neglected, or exploited and who are vulnerable and unable to take the necessary steps to correct their situation.



Adult Independent Living Services provides case management, home-help services, and supported services to enable individuals to remain in their own homes as an alternative to nursing home or institutional placement.

Number of families receiving services from Ottawa County DHS on a monthly basis

Financial Assistance Cases

FIP (Cash Assistance)	433
Food Assistance	12,998
Day Care	490
State Disability Assistance	127
Medicaid	30,122
<u>State Emergency Relief</u>	<u>495</u>
TOTAL	44,665

Services Cases

Children's Protective Services	104
Foster Care	173
Adult Protective Services	139
<u>Independent Living Services</u>	<u>322</u>
TOTAL	738



Department of Human Services

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Office Location

12185 James Street – Suite 200

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Mission

The Ottawa County Department of Human Services assists children, families and vulnerable adults to be safe, stable and self-supporting.
