DFYF is accredited by:
the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services (COA)

DFYF is certified by:
Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Department

DFYF is a member of:
• Family Service Council of Ohio
• Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers
• Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations

DFYF collaborations include:
• United Way of Central Ohio
• United Way of Delaware County
• ADAMH Board of Franklin County
• Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services
• City of Columbus
• Franklin County Juvenile Court
• Ohio Attorney General’s Office
• Columbus City Schools
• South-Western City Schools
• The Columbus Foundation

Directions for Youth & Families
A Resiliency-Oriented/Trauma-Informed Agency

We believe all individuals have rights and a voice in treatment that will be met with respect and dignity.

We believe children and families thrive best in physically and emotionally safe environments.

We believe all children and families have unique strengths, abilities, and talents and that with the right supports and encouragement youth can achieve their full potential.

We know parent involvement is critical in helping children learn to interact in a healthy way with others, manage their emotions, and communicate their feelings and needs.

Directions for Youth & Families

Ohio Avenue Youth Center

After-School & Summer Programs designed to create a safe, positive environment for youth ages 8-17

657 South Ohio Avenue
Columbus, OH 43205
(614)258-8043

We are 1 of 27 members of The National Crittenton Foundation family of agencies. Operating in 31 states, DFYF is the only one in Ohio.
Ohio Avenue Youth Center provides a safe, positive environment where young people are encouraged to
• think creatively
• try new experiences
• develop tools for self-expression
• give back to their community through the arts or service projects.

In a high risk neighborhood with few opportunities, Ohio Avenue Youth Center offers a safe and trusting environment where positive relationships are built. Center activities are provided free of charge.

**Prevention and Education**

All After School programming includes the following prevention services:

• Healthy Leaders Groups
• Substance Abuse Prevention
• Life Skills Education Groups
• Creative Arts
• Recreation/Fitness
• Homework Help
• Computer Skills

Prevention education activities teach participant’s critical life and social skills as a means of promoting health and well-being in youth. Our leadership program, Healthy Leaders, includes discussion groups that address the following issues:

• qualities of a good leader
• anger management
• conflict resolution
• decision-making and problem-solving skills
• consequences of substance use and delinquent behaviors
• personal goal-setting, and much more

Additionally, Healthy Leader participants complete Community Service Projects four times a year.

**Recreation & Artistic Choices**

Ohio Avenue Youth Center focuses on increasing self-esteem and positive values, and providing alternatives to substance abuse, violence, and other delinquent behavior.

• We specifically utilize activities to help strengthen interpersonal skills, leadership, and personal responsibility.
• We offer activities in the form of expressive and performance arts, recreation/fitness and group education activities that focus on tapping into the creative abilities and interests of the youth.
• Activities are held Monday through Friday 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and participants can become involved in all of the after-school programs.

**Computer Lab:**
Computer Education classes and homework help.

**Music:**
All aspects of music education and development to play a variety of instruments, read music and participate in a wide range of community performances throughout the year.

**Recreation/Fitness:**
Full size gym and a fitness & exercise room with weight and aerobic equipment

**Dance:**
Ballet, lyrical, modern and hip-hop dance forms with performances in a variety of community events throughout the year

**Visual Art:**
Ceramics, jewelry making, print making, painting, drawing, mixed media and fiber art along with a business component

**A Healthy Meal:**
Youth help prepare and cook a meal that is served each evening. This is part of our nutrition education program that focuses on nutritious food and healthy cooking