



**Department of
Higher Education**

Ohio

Children's

Alliance

*Leading change for child
and family service providers*



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Reach Coalition

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What Gets in the Way? Activity

- Think about a young person leaving foster care and starting college.
- **What obstacles might they face?**

Ohio Reach: How It Started

- Began in 2007 to support students with foster care experience
- Became a state-supported initiative in 2019
- Now led by Ohio Children's Alliance in partnership with Ohio Department of Higher Education

What is Ohio Reach?

- Ohio Reach helps students with foster care connections through:
 - **Campus Support** — helping students find a supportive person on campus
 - **Emergency Fund** — helping with unexpected financial needs
 - **Scholarship** — helping with education-related costs

Why This Support Matters

(Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2025)

- More students with foster care experience are going to college
- Finishing college can still be difficult
- Barriers like housing, money, transportation, and support can affect school
- The right support can help students stay enrolled and succeed

Who Can Connect with Ohio Reach?

- Students may be eligible if they:
- Have experience in foster care, kinship care, or out-of-home placement
- Are enrolled in an Ohio college, university, career center, or training program

Postsecondary Designation

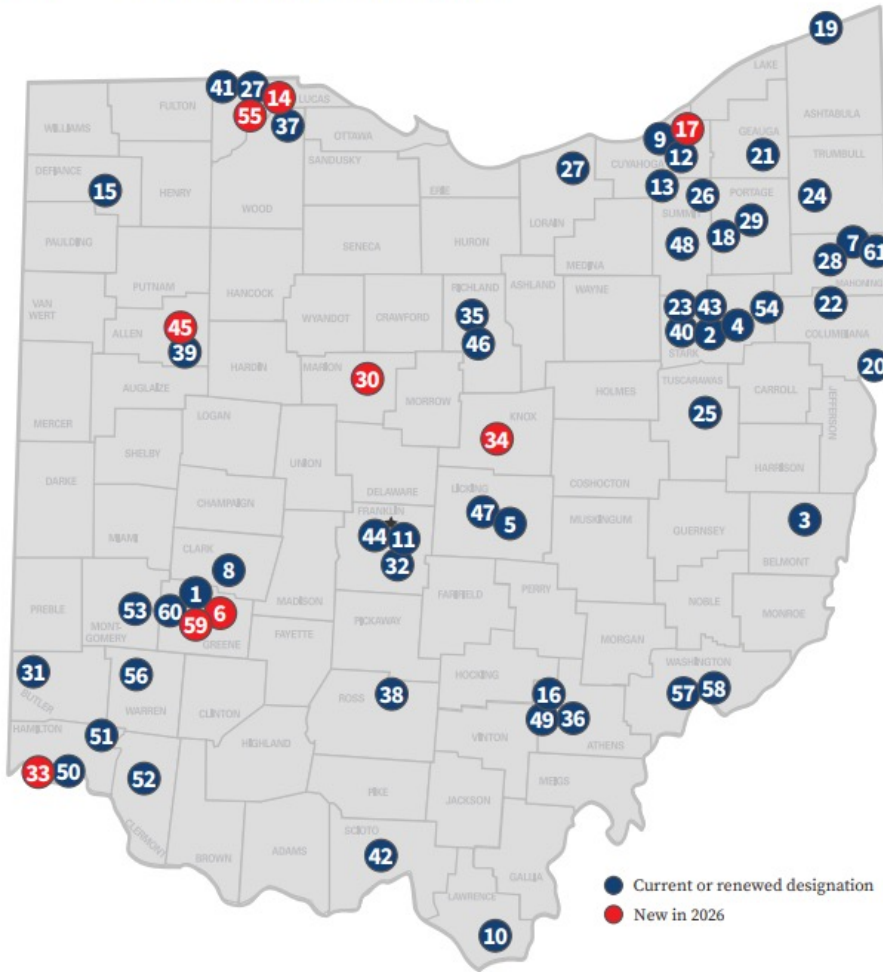
- **Supportive Campuses**

- Ohio Reach recognizes schools that are committed to supporting students with foster care connections.
- Designated schools may offer:
 - A campus liaison
 - Campus champions
 - Resource connections
 - Student support and belonging opportunities



Department of Higher Education

Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation



1. Antioch College
2. Aultman College
3. Belmont College
4. Canton City Career & Technical Center
5. Central Ohio Technical College
6. Central State University
7. Choffin Career & Technical Center
8. Clark State College
9. Cleveland State University
10. Collins Career & Technical Center
11. Columbus City Adult Education
12. Cuyahoga Community College
13. Cuyahoga Valley Career Center
14. Davis University
15. Defiance College
16. Hocking College
17. John Carroll University
18. Kent State University
19. Kent State University – Ashtabula
20. Kent State University - East Liverpool
21. Kent State University – Geauga
22. Kent State University – Salem
23. Kent State University – Stark
24. Kent State University – Trumbull
25. Kent State University – Tuscarawas
26. Kent State University – Twinsburg
27. Lorain County Community College
28. Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
29. Maplewood Career Center
30. Marion Technical College
31. Miami University
32. Mount Carmel College of Nursing
33. Mount St. Joseph University
34. Mount Vernon Nazarene University
35. North Central State College
36. Ohio University
37. Owens Community College
38. Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center
39. Rhodes State College
40. Ross College – North Canton
41. Ross College – Sylvania
42. Scioto County Career & Technical Center
43. Stark State College
44. The Ohio State University
45. The Ohio State University – Lima
46. The Ohio State University – Mansfield
47. The Ohio State University – Newark
48. The University of Akron
49. Tri-County Career Center
50. University of Cincinnati
51. University of Cincinnati – Blue Ash
52. University of Cincinnati – Clermont
53. University of Dayton
54. University of Mount Union
55. University of Toledo
56. Warren County Career Center
57. Washington County Career & Technical Center
58. Washington State College of Ohio
59. Wilberforce University
60. Wright State University
61. Youngstown State University

Updated May 2026

Institutional Criteria & Student Supports

- **What Support Can Look Like**
- On campus, support may include:
 - A designated liaison
 - Help finding campus resources
 - Connection to basic needs support
 - Community-building opportunities
 - Staff who understand foster care experiences
 - Help planning for transitions

Supports That Can Make College Easier

- Year-round housing
- Career counseling
- Cohort structure
- Tutoring
- Leadership opportunities
- Life skills support
- Transition services

Ohio Reach Emergency Fund

Helps students with unexpected financial needs that could interrupt school.

Examples may include:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Food
- School supplies
- Other urgent needs

Available once per year; Funding is limited and not guaranteed.

Ohio Reach Scholarship

Award

- \$1,000 per semester
- Renewable for up to 5 years
- Supports education-related costs

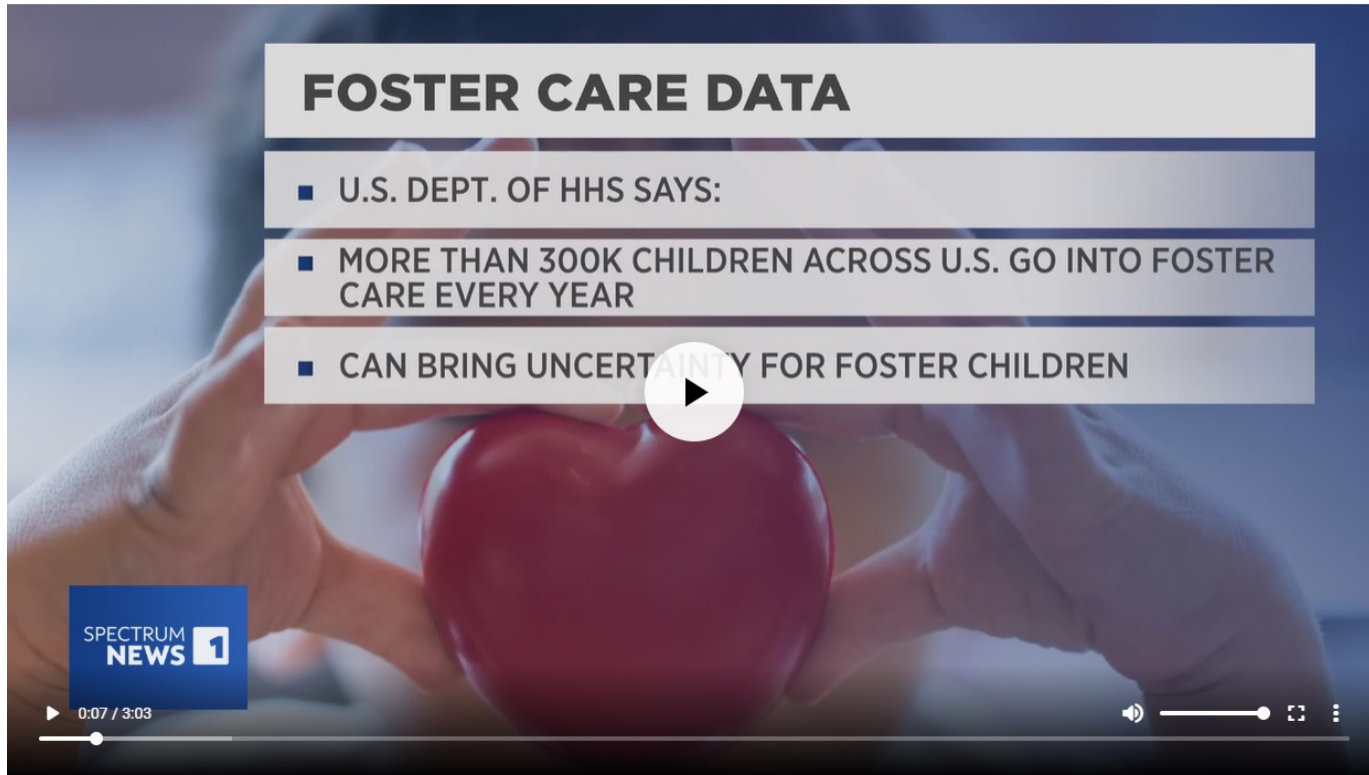
Eligibility

- Foster care experience after age 13
- Enrolled or accepted at an Ohio college or program

Application

- OhioReach.org
- Transcript, reference, and student statement

Spectrum News Story (11/17/2025)



FOSTER CARE DATA

- U.S. DEPT. OF HHS SAYS:
- MORE THAN 300K CHILDREN ACROSS U.S. GO INTO FOSTER CARE EVERY YEAR
- CAN BRING UNCERTAINTY FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

0:07 / 3:03

Brooke Winstead is a recent Ohio REACH scholar. It's a statewide initiative that supports foster care connected students as they pursue higher education. (Spectrum News 1/Javari Burnett)

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2025/11/17/brooke-winstead--ohio-reach--ohio-children-s-alliance--college--foster-care-connected-students--susan-ballard>

How to Connect with Ohio Reach

- Visit [OhioReach.org](https://ohioreach.org)
- Look for your campus liaison
- Ask for a warm handoff
- Apply for the Emergency Fund or Scholarship
- Reach out if you are not sure where to start

Ohio Reach Knowledge Check

- Answer correctly to win a prize!
 1. What website should students visit?
 2. Name one Ohio Reach support.
 3. Who can students connect with on campus?
 4. Name one obstacle students may face.
 5. True or False: Students have to figure it out alone.

Questions? Thank You!

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