



LUCAS COUNTY
**CHILDREN
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LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES LAUNCHES PARENT/KIN EMPOWERMENT INSTITUTE *Program goal is to reduce incidence of child abuse.*

(TOLEDO) — July 7, 2020 — Lucas County Children Services, the county agency responsible for leading the community in the protection of children, is kicking off a new initiative to help caregivers improve their parenting skills.

The agency's new Parent Empowerment Institute will provide workshops on a wide variety of skills to support parents, grandparents, foster parents and other caregivers, with the goal of preventing child abuse before it happens.

LCCS had planned to launch in-person workshops during the third quarter of 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, decided to launch "virtually" this summer to address the needs of caregivers coping with the challenges of parenting children with few community programs or resources available.

The Institute's first offering via WebEx is a three-workshop series that addresses stress management, self-care, substance abuse and healthy eating. Each workshop concludes with a guided activity that adults and children can do together, such as gardening and making a time capsule. The programs will be live on July 11, 18 and 25; the same programs will repeat on August 8, 15, and 22.

"As part of our strategic plan, LCCS has committed itself to reducing the number of children in foster care. One of the strategies for accomplishing this goal is to empower parents with the skills to prevent the factors that lead to children coming into care," said Robin Reese, LCCS executive director. "If parents have the tools to deal with stress and substance abuse, and know about resources available in the community, we can stop abuse before it occurs," she added.

Registration for the Parent Empowerment Institute programs is free, and is easily accessible through the LCCS Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LucasCountyChildrenServices/>

About Lucas County Children Services

The mission of Lucas County Children Services is to lead the community in the protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect. This is accomplished by working with families, service providers and community members to assess risk and coordinate community-based services resulting in safe, stable and permanent families for children.

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