

Taxpayer Savings

The Northwest Ohio Treatment Foster Pilot saved taxpayers roughly **\$1.9m** in placement costs, staff time, healthcare spending, and special education costs.



Reduced Placement Costs

Because the pilot increased the supply of local foster homes equipped to support children with treatment-level needs, PCSAs were able to place children at the appropriate level of care. In 2023 and 2024:

- 21 children were able to avoid or step down from group homes.
- 27 children were able to be placed in local treatment foster care homes instead of private treatment foster care homes and group homes much farther away.

By placing children closer to home at the appropriate level of care, the pilot saved **\$1.7m** in placement costs.



Faster Reunification

A key tenet of the pilot is its support for safe reunification of children and their biological families. Treatment foster parents receive education and guidance to help foster healthy relationships between children and their families. Research shows that increased family contact—especially with mothers—can significantly reduce the time to reunification. By keeping children close to their families and actively encouraging these connections, the pilot accelerated reunification and saved approximately **\$170k** in placement costs.



Timely Supports

By placing children with families equipped to support their complex health and developmental needs, the pilot ensures that children receive appropriate supports. Early intervention reduces the need for costly treatments later, which in the case of autism alone saved roughly **\$21k** in increased healthcare and special education utilization for children in the pilot.



Reduced Placement Instability

Children who are separated from their siblings are more likely to have a placement disruption than children who are placed with their siblings. Because the pilot increased the supply of foster homes that could accept children with treatment-level needs *and* their siblings, 19 children were able to stay with their siblings. In addition to the profound impacts this has on the children, it has saved **\$7k** in the staff time associated with placement changes. Additional cost savings from placement stability are captured in other outcome values.

Over 70% of Ohio's group homes are located in Dayton, Cincinnati, and Toledo.

For pilot counties, placing a child in a group home typically requires sending the child 50-200 miles away from their home county.

This makes it more difficult for biological families to maintain relationships with their children and increases placement and travel costs for Public Children Services Agencies.



Most recent group homes to which Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot counties sent children in their care (as of June 2025).

Pilot counties are shaded in blue.

