

**Ohio's  
UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
(UPP)  
“In a Nutshell”**

**Our Shared Vision for Caseworkers**

**In the future, we hope that all Ohio PCSA caseworkers will:**

- have MSW degrees and be considered the best trained and educated child welfare workers in the nation
- be competent, satisfied career professionals who continue to be enthusiastic, creative, and respected for their work
- work in supportive agencies with excellent supervision that provides personal reward and incentives that focus on the career line social worker
- be advocates empowered to coach and mentor children and families based on best practice standards

**Our Shared Draft Mission Statement for the UPP**

The mission of the UPP is to develop creative child welfare leaders, policy makers, managers, and direct service practitioners who have the capacity for critical thinking and to promote best practice and highest quality service to children, families, and communities. The UPP accomplishes this through the coordinated and integrated provision of quality social work education and training.

**Objectives of the UPP in Support of Ohio's Public Children Services  
System Include:**

- ensuring that, in accordance with Ohio House Bill 448, all newly hired caseworkers shall achieve or shall have achieved, within five years of employment, an undergraduate or graduate degree in a job-related human services field
- reducing staff turnover in public child welfare agencies
- maximizing the expenditure of in-service training resources
- creating career ladders and ongoing professional development

## **Requirements for BSW and MSW Student Participation in the UPP**

1. Successful completion of two specialized, standardized child welfare courses and a year long field placement in an Ohio PCSA
2. Graduation from a participating university
3. Employment in an Ohio PCSA within 180 days of graduation
4. Continued employment in an Ohio PCSA in fulfillment of the UPP student contract

## **UPP Student Reimbursement Assistance and Employment Requirements**

Upon completing all UPP program requirements, UPP graduates are eligible to receive total or partial tuition and mandatory fees reimbursement for up to two years of participation in the UPP. During the current biennium (2005-2007), UPP students are eligible for \$5,000 for each year of their participation up to a maximum of two years.

### **Waiver of Core Training**

Required social work courses and the two child welfare courses and internship in a PCSA that must be successfully completed by UPP graduates have been deemed by the UPP planning committee to provide all the competencies equivalent to those in Caseworker Core with the exception of the legal aspects Core module. UPP students at some universities take the legal aspects module at an RTC before graduation. UPP graduates who have not completed the legal aspects Core module must do so in their first year of employment at a PCSA.

Ohio House Bill 95 stipulates therefore that PCSA directors who hire UPP graduates **MAY** waive the required first year Core training requirements.