



# 2018-2019

Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

ANNUAL REPORT



Pennsylvania  
Children's Trust Fund



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS  
AND COMMUNITIES

# Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

The Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund (CTF), established December 1988 by Act 1988-151 [11 P.S. §§ 2231-2238 relating to the Children's Trust Fund Act (CTFA)], operates under the administration of the 15 member CTF Board composed of legislative appointees appointed by the House and Senate and citizens appointed by the Governor and is supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The deputy secretary of DHS's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) serves as the executive director and carries out the duties and responsibilities assigned by the board through OCDEL's Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports.

## Funding

CTF is dedicated to funding community-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect through three-year grants. Specific emphasis for funding is placed on primary and secondary prevention programs, which focus on the prevention of abuse before it occurs for the first time by implementing evidence-based programs and promising practices.

Grantees are asked to collaborate in their community, intentionally integrate the Strengthening Families Protective Factors (SFPF) Framework into their work, and create a plan to sustain their programs after CTF funds have expired.

## Guiding Principles and Core Values

We aspire to be a catalyst to influence public policy and to change social attitudes that promote and tolerate violence against children.

We strive to improve the lives of children by initiating prevention programs that strengthen families, build communities, and empower individuals to protect and nurture their children.

We encourage collaboration among public and private agencies, replication of innovative community-based programs, strong leadership, flexibility, and diversity.

We recognize our responsibilities as stewards of a public trust, never losing sight of children's urgent need to be free from abuse and neglect.

We are passionately committed to ensuring the safety of children in Pennsylvania.



Since its inception, CTF has invested more than \$39 million through 310 grants. A full list of former grantees including the counties served can be found on the Children's Trust Fund website:

**[www.pa-ctf.org](http://www.pa-ctf.org)**

Funds for CTF are generated from a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints that are paid into a special non-lapsing fund. Interest and donations also contribute to the Fund. Donations to CTF may be designated via annual state tax returns. Taxpayers may donate a part of their state tax refund via a checkbox on the state tax form.

Grants are awarded in response to a Request for Application (RFA) process. Grantees may apply for up to \$50,000.00 per year for up to three years and require local matching funds. Grantee selection is approved by the CTF Board following a report from the review committee appointed by the Board.

In 2017–2018, the CTF Board shifted the grant year for newly awarded grantees. This move aligned CTF grant activities with the state fiscal year. Cohort 27 was awarded and began their first grant year on July 1, 2018. As a result, the 2018–2019 year included grantees working in different grant year schedules. Cohort 26 began their third and final grant year on November 1, 2018, and completed the grant year on October 31, 2019.

Cohort 27 is the first cohort of Children's Trust Fund grantees to use OCDEL's Family Support and Home Visiting Database. Grantees enter demographic data into this system to ensure an accurate count of families, parents, and children served. In addition to demographics, grantees report expenditures and information about caregiver outcomes. Grantees and grant monitors may access the information and create reports.

The CTF Board contracts with the Center for Schools and Communities to provide professional development, technical assistance, and monitoring functions with the grantees, as well as lead the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

# Strengthening Families™

The Children's Trust Fund Board endorses the use of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors (SFPF) Framework by requiring grantees to integrate the approach into their grant applications and subsequent work. The Strengthening Families™ approach promotes the development of protective factors within families by building on strengths, rather than focusing on deficits. It is not a curriculum or a program but a framework of five research-informed protective factors, identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, that support effective parenting, so that even in stressful times child maltreatment may be prevented. It is based on the belief that all families have strengths and all families need supports. When these protective factors are robust in families, children thrive.

## Five Protective Factors

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete supports in time of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

## Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team

The Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team (SFLT) works to sustain and weave the five Protective Factors into policies, programs and practice across child and family service systems throughout the state. The team consists of leaders in various systems and communities and collaborates directly with two national organizations – the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and the Center for the Study of Social Policy. SFLT work is supported by the CTF board.

In 2018-2019, SFLT met three times in the fiscal year to continue to expand knowledge about the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors and to share experiences related to implementing the approach. Strategic planning continued in the 2018-2019 year with progress made in professional development, promotion, and evaluation.

Meetings featured information about systems/policies changes. The revision to the Keystone STARS rating system includes Strengthening Families™ professional development as evidence of a strengths-based approach to meet advancement criteria. Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance staff shared ways they incorporated concepts from the SFPF Framework in their revision of the Families in Recovery Program. The SFLT welcomed Communities Practicing Resiliency and Robert K. Reed, Executive Deputy Attorney General for Public Engagement, who shared information about the Trauma Informed State Initiative.

SFLT members and other concerned stakeholders met to discuss the child abuse and neglect prevention landscape. The conversation introduced several ideas including the development of a holistic plan of prevention and intervention services for children and families, potential and actual funding sources for services, and consideration of utilizing the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors as a common framework. The SFLT Steering Committee held strategic planning meetings with OCDEL and Preschool Development Grant leaders to expand the Strengthening Families™ approach and Be Strong Parent Café offerings in Pennsylvania. SFLT members served on the state's Family Engagement Framework Committee and the Title IV-E Families First Prevention Act Workgroup that focuses on prevention, trauma-informed, and strengths-based services to families.

The SFLT continued to monitor the professional development needs related to the SFPF Framework, develop courses as needed, and act as a conduit for trainings developed by Strengthening Families™ national partners. This work is carried out primarily through a contract with Center for Schools and Communities (CSC).

Supported by OCDEL, CSC held the Strengthening Families Conference for 250 participants from Children's Trust Fund grantees, Parents as Teachers affiliates and Early Intervention programs that infused the SFPF Framework into 21 workshops over three days.



# Outcomes and Impact

Children's Trust Fund (CTF) grantees shared impact statements and outcomes data through several reporting methods.

## Outcomes

Grantees in Cohort 26 completed their three-year grant cycle on October 31, 2019. In total, six grantees successfully exited. All six grantees exceeded their goals for the number of families served during their grant cycle. Four grantees secured funding to continue their programs at the same level of service. Two grantees will continue to provide the program with modest reductions in the number of families served.

Through community collaborative initiatives, grantees used their position to highlight the role of family support programs in child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. The programs were added to the continuum of services available to families in the community. In some cases, these services were unique—providing legal services or tailoring a program to fit the needs of parents experiencing addiction. In other cases, grantees continued a long-standing program in the community that has become an integral piece of the continuum of services. Several grantees noted the importance of collaboration in their work to build trust among partners and to avoid duplication of services. Collaborative partners participated in advocacy efforts to improve the well-being of families.

One grantee that combined a parenting education program with a truancy prevention initiative expressed the importance of collaborating with the school district to prevent child maltreatment. They found that if the children were at risk of truancy it could be an indication that the whole family needs support. By reaching out when there was a risk for truancy, they were able to gain the trust of parents, partner with them to identify needs and connect them with supports that could prevent them from entering the child welfare system. The grantee felt they moved the continuum of prevention “farther upstream” by partnering this way.



## Impact

Several grantees reported that parents relied more often on positive discipline techniques as a result of their participation. Parents self-reported that they had a calmer approach to discipline and were less likely to use corporal punishment. Two programs that used an assessment that measures the use of corporal punishment found that most parents showed a decrease in physical discipline.

~ Information collected through annual site visits and exit reports

A mother of two who recently enrolled in one of our centers stated that she realized the way she talked to her daughter was not healthy. During the ACT class, the facilitator talked about how words effect our kids. Once she completed the paper doll exercise by tearing the doll for every bad thing said to our kids, she had an epiphany. She told the staff from that point on she was going to watch what she says and how she speaks to her daughter. She stated that it is making a huge difference in her daughter's self-esteem and her confidence.

~Allegheny Intermediate Unit, ACT Raising Safe Kids

The parenting class is very supportive of one another. There are many friendships that have formed and Buddy Calls are going well. A participant whose relative passed away received a card from the class. Some people bring dessert and some offer rides to those who need it. The staff have really connected with a mom and son in the program. Staff are able to share progress from the son in DINA with the mom who is not used to hearing good things about the child. Mom had really opened up to the possibilities of positive and nurturing parenting practices.

~Wesley Family Services, Incredible Years

One grantee described how they have incorporated a strengths-based approach to all aspects of their organization. All communication is strengths-based—with parents, with families, and with staff. Modeling this strengths-based approach with staff sets the tone for how they are expected to work with families. In fact, they refer to this work as “family strengthening” not “parent education” or “family support.” This honors the families' role and acknowledges that there are strengths already present in families that their work and relationship will help to increase.

~Family Services of Bucks County, Nurturing Parenting

One grantee noted that they appreciated that they got two rounds of funding from the Children's Trust Fund for this project – it gave them time to not only establish the program but also allowed them to show outcomes to other funders to sustain beyond the CTF funding cycle.

~Columbia County Family Center, Parents as Teachers

# Grantees

## Cohort 26 (2016-2019)

Children's Aid Society of Clearfield County, Clearfield County  
Columbia County Family Center, Columbia County  
Family Services Association of Bucks County, Bucks County  
Fulton County Family Partnership, Inc., Fulton County  
Jim Thorpe Area School District, Carbon County  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, Philadelphia County

## Cohort 27 (2018-2021)

Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Allegheny County  
Beginnings, Cambria County  
Blueprints, Washington and Greene Counties  
Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County, Lancaster County  
Outreach (formerly EOTC), Lackawanna County  
Family Connection of Easton, Inc., Northampton County  
Family Services of Montgomery County, Montgomery County  
Fayette County Community Action Agency, Fayette County  
Health Promotion Council, Philadelphia County  
Maternity Care Coalition, Philadelphia County  
Union Snyder Community Action Agency, Union and Snyder Counties  
Wesley Family Services, Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties

## Evidence-informed Programs

Grantees used evidence-informed programs including home visiting models, individual and group-based parent education and case management. Specific programs include:

- ACT Raising Safe Kids
- Circles
- Healthy Families America
- Incredible Years
- Nurse-Legal Partnership
- Nurturing Parenting
- ParentChild+ (formerly Parent-Child Home Program)
- Parenting Inside Out
- Parents as Teachers
- SafeCare
- Triple P - Positive Parenting Program

**July 2018 to October 2019,  
18 Grantees (Cohorts 26 & 27) served**

**18**  
Counties



**661**  
Families

**782**  
Parents and Caregivers



**1052**  
Children



# 2018-2019

**416** people attended **nine** sessions related to the SFPF Framework at conferences, webinars and community-based courses.

**518** people attended **20** Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work courses. These courses were developed by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and are taught by certified instructors. Certified Instructors continued to provide training on the Be Strong Parent Café Model. **Two** Parent Café Training Institutes were held. Through this process, **10** community-based teams, composed of **54** total staff and parent members, participated and committed to delivering a series of **three** Be Strong Parent Cafés in their communities. Additionally, **37** people attended **two** Table Host trainings.

**One** Professional Development Instructors Institute was held to train instructors to deliver Understanding the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework course.

**20** instructors were trained to deliver this course. Certified Instructors delivered the Understanding the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework course.

**Sixty** courses were delivered reaching **967** participants.

[www.pa-strengthening-families.org](http://www.pa-strengthening-families.org)



## Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund Board Members

### **Bruce Clash**

Chair, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Pennsylvania

### **Angela Liddle**

Vice-Chair, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

### **Representative Karen Boback**

Wyoming, Lackawanna, and Luzerne Counties

### **Representative Scott Conklin**

Centre County

### **Senator Arthur Haywood**

Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties

### **Representative Dan Moul**

Adams County

### **Representative Joseph Petrarca**

Westmoreland, Armstrong and Indiana Counties

### **Representative Tarah Toohil**

Luzerne County

### **Rodney Wagner**

York County Youth Development Center

## Fiscal Report

### 2018-2019

Based on state fiscal year July–June

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$1,725,944.34</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,097,615.30</b>
Marriage/Divorce Fees	\$1,035,087.50
Investment Income	\$42,009.17
Donations	\$20,518.63
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$2,823,559.64</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,243,788.30</b>
Grant Payments	\$1,241,094.75
Operating Costs	\$2,693.55
Refunds	(\$0.00)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,579,771.34</b>

### Send your contributions to:

Children's Trust Fund | Department of Human Services  
Office of Child Development and Early Learning  
333 Market Street, 6th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Visit our website at [www.pa-ctf.org](http://www.pa-ctf.org)