



2016-2017

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 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 Learning Services staff.

During 2016-2017, the CTF Board revised their policies and procedures. This project was undertaken in committee with support from OCDEL and Center for Schools and Communities contracted technical assistance staff.

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.



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.

Since its inception, CTF has invested more than \$37 million through 295 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.

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.

Grantees

Cohort 24 (2014-2017)

Carson Valley Children's Aid, Montgomery County
Employment Opportunity & Training Center of Northeastern
Pennsylvania, Lackawanna County
HANDS of Wyoming County, Wyoming County
Jewish Family & Children's Services of Greater Philadelphia,
Philadelphia County
Turning Points for Children, Philadelphia County

Cohort 25 (2015-2018)

Blue Prints, Washington and Greene Counties
Community Action Program Somerset, Somerset County
Family Services of Montgomery County, Montgomery County
Maternity Care Coalition, Montgomery County
SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network, Erie County
Union Snyder Community Action Agency, Union and
Snyder Counties
Wordsworth Academy, Philadelphia County



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 Partnership, Inc., Fulton County
Jim Thorpe Area School District, Carbon County
National Nurse Led Care Consortium, Philadelphia County

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

- Early Head Start
- Healthy Families America
- Incredible Years
- Nurse-Legal Partnership
- Nurturing Parenting
- Parents as Teachers
- Strengthening Families Program
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)



November 2016 to October 2017, 18 Grantees served

16
Counties



1064
Families

1200
Parents and Caregivers



1491
Children

Grantee Highlighted Outcomes And Impact

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

Outcomes

Grantees in Cohort 24 completed their three-year grant cycle on October 31, 2017. In total, five grantees successfully exited. Four grantees exceeded their goals for number of families served during their grant cycle. Two grantees sustained their programs at the same level of service. The remaining three grantees sustained modified versions of their programs.

Through community collaborative initiatives, grantees used their position to highlight the role of family support programs in child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. One grantee used their position to advocate for the importance of including fathers in prevention efforts. Several grantees expressed the importance of relationships with local children and youth agencies and school districts to bolster prevention efforts. CTF grants gave agencies the opportunity to expand their family support and parenting education services. By providing more comprehensive services to families along with their partners, they contributed to preventing child maltreatment in their communities.

One grantee incorporated intensive case management time into their Parents as Teachers program. They found that this additional time to address the pressing needs of families allowed parents to focus more fully on other aspects of the program including learning about their child's development and practicing parenting skills. Addressing case management needs reduced the stress level of the parents thereby decreasing the possibility of child maltreatment.

Impact

All grantees reported positive changes in the behavior of the parents toward their children. In addition to observation, parents self-reported an increase in positive interaction with their children explaining that they were less likely to use corporal punishment, were more patient, and stayed calmer while disciplining their children.

~Information collected through annual site visits.

Sophia's daughter Ana was born in March 2016. Through the Healthy Families America program, Sophia was assigned an Advocate who provided her with information regarding parenting. During a home visit, an Ages and Stages Questionnaire was completed. The outcome showed some early signs of delays in gross motor development. Sophia was afraid she had done something wrong in her parenting causing this delay. The Advocate provided Sophia with education on child development and expectations, helping her to understand that children develop differently. She further explained the supports available and the benefits of Early Intervention. Sophia was relieved but uncertain of the next steps. The Advocate supported her through the process and completed a referral for Early Intervention services for which Ana was eligible. One year later, Ana has completed all her goals with Early Intervention. She is doing extremely well developmentally and is talking, running, and imitating with her doll babies. Sophia and Ana share a great bond.

~Parent participant at Maternity Care Coalition, Healthy Families America

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium is utilizing their Children's Trust Fund grant to provide legal services to families in their home visiting programs with the goal of decreasing stress in the family unit – a known risk factor for child maltreatment. Preliminary data from pre and post Perceived Stress Scale surveys show that 93 percent of client respondents decreased their stress level because of Nurse Legal Partnership services (total n=15).

~National Nurse-led Care Consortium, Nurse Legal Partnership

Jewish Family and Children's Service took a new approach in referring to their parent training program as Parenting Club. Parents expressed they loved the Parenting Club so much that they created membership cards for all parent graduates, and children who came with them regularly. Staff reported that this shift in language helped to remove some of the stigma that can be associated with receiving parenting education classes.

~Jewish Family and Children's Services, Incredible Years

Strengthening Families™

The Children's Trust Fund Board promotes the use of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework by requiring grantees to integrate the approach into their work. Strengthening Families™ is an approach to working with families to prevent child maltreatment that promotes the development of protective factors within families 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, even in stressful times. 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 for families
- 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. The team consists of leaders in various systems throughout the state and collaborates directly with two national organizations – National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and the Center for the Study of Social Policy. SFLT is supported by the CTF board.

In 2016–2017, SFLT continued to expand the group of representatives across multiple family-serving systems that will incorporate the Protective Factors concepts into their work.

SFLT met quarterly to continue learning about the SFPF Framework and its influence in Pennsylvania organizations, and to exchange program and practice concepts. Key presentations included Reports from the Ground, featuring representatives from local programs explaining their implementation of SFPF Framework. One example is how the Pennsylvania Family Center Network is incorporating the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support (from the National Family Support Network) into their work. The Strengthening Families Protective Factors are woven into the Standards of Quality. Members also heard from the Department of Human Services about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Discussion focused on how the SFPF Framework could be shared with this group. The team continued the process of planning for future work by participating in strategic planning discussions and developing a survey to gauge stakeholder's knowledge of the SFPF Framework and the Leadership Team.

SFLT issued a quarterly newsletter and maintained the Pennsylvania Strengthening Families website (www.pa-strengthening-families.org).

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

2016-2017

485 people attended **18** sessions related to the SFPF Framework at conferences, webinars and community-based courses.

699 people attended **54** 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.

Six instructors completed certification to deliver Be Strong Parent Café Training Institutes. **Three** Training Institutes were held. Through this process **17** community-based teams composed of **72** total staff and parent members participated and committed to deliver a series of three Be Strong Parent Cafés in their communities.

OCDEL, PA Key and community stakeholders worked to revise the Keystone STARS, the quality rating improvement system for Pennsylvania early care and education providers. The SFPF Framework was identified as an approach to effectively engage parents. Receiving training in this approach will allow providers to move up the STARS system. As a result, there will be an increased need for professional development opportunities in this area. The PA Key approached SFLT and Center for Schools and Communities staff to develop a train-the-trainer course. Two Professional Development Instructors Institutes were held to train instructors to deliver Understanding the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework course. Fifty-six Pennsylvania Quality Assurance System (PQAS) certified instructors were trained to deliver this course.

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

Senator Ryan Aument

Lancaster County

Senator Camera Bartolotta

Beaver, Washington and Greene Counties

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Maria McColgan, MD

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Representative Dan Moul

Adams County

Abbie Newman

Montgomery County Child Advocacy Center

Representative Tarah Toohil

Luzerne County

Rodney Wagner

York County Youth Development Center

Fiscal Report

2016-2017

Based on state fiscal year July-June

Beginning Balance**	\$1,520,477.72
Total Revenue	\$1,114,186.71
Marriage/Divorce Fees	\$1,076,206.00
Investment Income	\$12,293.01
Donations	\$25,687.70
Total Funds Available	\$2,634,664.43
Total Expenditures	\$1,107,164.39
Grant Payments	\$1,106,617.06
Operating Costs	\$547.33
Refunds	(\$0.00)
Ending Balance	\$1,527,500.04

Beginning Balance:** Per the DHS Office of Budget's directive, the beginning balance is \$1,520,477.72

Send your contributions to:

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