

CONNECTICUT
FY 08; Funding 07

Development, Operation & Expansion of Community-based & Prevention-focused Programs	Services Provided to Families by Local Programs	Unmet Needs Identified by the Inventory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children's Trust Fund has a \$15 million budget that supports several major initiatives that ensure the positive growth and development of children and the well being of their families. Children's Trust Fund programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Are designed to engage families and others at risk for child abuse or neglect before a crisis occurs. ♦ Enlist new partners in community efforts to ensure the safety and protection of children. ♦ Reach "at risk" parents: teen parents and those involved in domestic violence and substance abuse; addressing mental health issues; raising children with disabilities; living in extreme poverty and social isolation; and those with a history of abuse. ♦ Are located in hospitals, clinics, shelters, prisons, housing projects and schools. ♦ Focus on fostering strong bonds and healthy relationships between parents and their children while addressing other parental needs ♦ Bolster the chances that children will experience a safe and healthy home, have a positive relationship with their parents and a stable family life, leading to success in school and healthy development through maturity. ▪ CTF is lead by a diverse council Members include the Commissioners from the Departments of Children and Families, Public Health, Social Services and Education, as well as individuals from the business community, the child abuse field, parents and a pediatrician. ▪ The Council's main role is to solicit funds and make grants to programs aimed at preventing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help Me Grow -- a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated system of early identification and referral of all children at-risk of developmental or behavioral problems. ▪ Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention ▪ "The Stranger You Know" Program, a child sexual abuse prevention program ▪ Statewide Fatherhood Involvement Pilot Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In addition to presentations at schools, hospitals, prisons and community-based programs, CTF has expanded it Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention program with the use of posters, pamphlets, and its web site, www. take5parenting.com. ▪ As a component of the statewide Help Me Grow initiative, a pilot program to identify hard-to-reach families in Hartford's North End has been expanded from two to four sites. The program – funded with a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation – identifies and connects these hard-to-reach families with programs and services to help them cope with the stresses in their lives and with their children without resorting to child abuse or neglect. After identifying hard-to-reach families through health-care and other community services, child care professionals followed up and assessed the needs of these families, connected them with community services, or provided face-to-face information on child development and parenting. ▪ As an expansion of the state's Nurturing Families Program, a new statewide fatherhood involvement pilot program was started and includes home visits, fathers' support groups, field trips and weekend activities for fathers and their children.

<p>child abuse and neglect and providing resources for families. In addition, the Council offers its leadership and advocacy skills to the Trust Fund and oversees its work to ensure the fulfillment of its mission and mandates. The Council is actively involved in legislative, fundraising and communications activities. The Trust Fund staff is responsible for planning, site selection, budgeting, policy development, site performance appraisals, data analysis and quality assurance, contract content and compliance.</p>		
<p>Description of Number of Families Served</p>	<p>Outreach to Special Populations</p>	<p>Parent Leadership</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CTF's efforts reach more than 10,000 families each year. ▪ Through Help Me Grow pilot program for hard-to-reach families, 51 families were identified and recruited to participate in the CTF's successful Help Me Grow program. ▪ The "Stranger you Know" program was presented to 1,000 people across the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CTF's focus is to reach high-risk parents where the risk of abuse and neglect is very real 	<p>Parents serve on the council which governs the Trust Fund.</p>
<p>Training and Technical Assistance</p>	<p>Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities</p>	<p>Innovative Funding Mechanisms</p>
<p>Trust Fund staff provides training and direction to community-based organizations and other partners, examine program outcomes, and work with sites to solve problems and achieve best practice.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal and state dollars, as well as private funding, sustain the Children's Trust Fund. ▪ National and local foundations and individual donors have supported the Trust Fund and its programs by contributing more than \$1 million dollars in the just the past few years. These funds supported program development, community awareness and parent leadership efforts. ▪ Last year, CTF received a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to enhance Help Me Grow Program's capacity to engage hard-to-reach families, including those who do not have a phone or who have complex needs. CTF is piloting this program in the city of Hartford.

<p>Linkages with Other Systems (Child Welfare, PSSF, Early Childhood, etc.)</p>	<p>A. PART Data Efficiency Measure that Supports EBP and EIP Practices</p>	<p>B. Demonstration of High Level of Satisfaction Among Families</p>
<p>C. Results of Peer Review</p>	<p>D. Evaluation Data on Funded Programs, the Lead Agency & the Network</p>	<p>Other Elements:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Trust Fund's major programs are researched and evaluated by the University of Hartford Center for Social Research. This research is a vital ingredient in the development of the Trust Fund programs. This year the researchers focused on efforts to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understand fathers • Engage hard to reach families • Prevent shaken baby syndrome • Training program staff ▪ Research on Help Me Grow has found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Demand for the program has grown. Help Me Grow received 3,300 calls last year, up 16 percent from the previous year. The number of services requested by each caller also increased. As a result, there was a 60 percent increase in referrals to community-based services. ♦ There is a high level of success in connecting families to services. Research shows that 86 percent of families referred to the program during the past year were connected to services. ♦ Participation rates in the Help Me Grow "Ages & Stages Child Monitoring Program," increased by 4 percent over last year. The figure is up 13 percent from two years ago. ▪ Fatherhood Involvement Pilot Project: The University of Hartford's six-month evaluation of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Connecticut Children's Trust program, Help Me Grow, has been replicated in Polk County, Iowa and Orange County, California. In addition, the Commonwealth Fund in Boston is funding an effort to replicate Connecticut's Help Me Grow nationally. The Connecticut Children's Medical Center is administering the effort.

	<p>program found it had produced positive – “even transformative” --- effects in the men it reached. Fathers involved in the program reported that they felt better able to actively participate in raising their children in a positive way.</p>	
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State Allowable Claims: \$10,186,692

Population-Based Allocations: \$ 289,097

Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations: \$ 447,101

Final State Allocations: \$ 736,198

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