

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Council for Children and Families (CCF) is an office of the Governor and a member of the Governor's Small Agency Cabinet. The Executive Director of CCF has dual accountabilities, to the Governor and to the CCF Council. The 15 member Governor-appointed Council provides governance for CCF including budgetary approval. CCF is also a chartered chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) and the home of the state Children's Trust Fund.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** In July 2009, CCF contracted with 14 community-based agencies across the state to provide programs with a goal of decreasing child abuse and neglect. Utilizing state funding sources, additional contracts were made with 9 agencies to implement evidence-based home visiting programs. All contracts met the state of Washington contracting requirements and CBCAP requirements. Program services include home visitation, parent education and parent support. A variety of best practices and 'well supported models' were funded. Programs reflected the geographic diversity and funding focus in the community.
- **Policy achievements:** CCF remained in statute in spite of being proposed for elimination in the Governor's budget. They also worked closely with the state Home Visiting Coalition to inform policy advocacy efforts related to expansion of evidence based home visiting; led the state's Post Partum Depression (PPD) awareness campaign, which includes a focus on policy issues related to maternal and early childhood mental health.; played a leading role in the development of the state's Early Learning Plan, especially in regards to use of the Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factor framework, home visiting, and parent leadership and education; worked to advance a public health approach to mental health as part of the state's federally-funded Mental Health Transformation efforts; and provided Congressional testimony on state implementation of home visiting services related to the health care reform act.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** For the 2008-09 fiscal year, the procurement process generated 74 Letters of Intent including 27 proposals for programs targeting culturally diverse communities, 9 proposals targeting teen parents, 13 proposals for programs targeting families affected by disabilities, 9 programs targeting homeless families, 6 programs targeting tribal communities, and 9 programs targeting fathers. CCF offered enhanced technical assistance to interested agencies and to all who submitted a Letter of Interest for the Rural/Tribal grant funding and made site visits and/or provided phone consult to six tribal programs.

Programs funded last year provided services to teen parents; parents recovering from substance abuse, experiencing domestic violence, residing in remote and rural areas; fathers; under represented ethnic groups including Native American and African American, Asian, Latino, and Eastern European immigrant groups; military families; families with a parent who is incarcerated or on probation; families with children in kinship care; homeless families; tribal communities; non-English speaking families; and families of children with disabilities and developmental delays.

CCF continued to develop and provide public awareness materials in multiple languages. CCF offered Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention materials in Spanish, Russian, and Vietnamese, and PPD awareness materials in Spanish.

- **Parent involvement/leadership:** CCF requires all funded programs to demonstrate how parents are meaningfully involved in planning, implementation, and evaluation of services. Compliance with this requirement is monitored through review of regularly required reports.



Parent leaders provide input to public awareness materials. CCF provided scholarships and travel assistance for parents in funded programs to participate in conferences and other events.

- **Evaluation:** All programs provided program outcome data and participant satisfaction data. Overall, CCF reports participant satisfaction was high for all programs. Programs reported outcome data on at least one identified protective factor. All programs demonstrated positive results on protective factor outcomes. Sampling of results: over 70% of the families participating in the Promoting First Relationships program reported an improvement in their strategies for secure attachment; and Parent Stress Index post test scores showed 60% of families improved from pre to mid, 60% of families improved from mid to post, and 74% improved from pre to post in a Parent Child Interaction Therapy program.

Peer review for funded programs also occurred through paired peer-to-peer site visits, and sharing of self-assessment and outcome data reports. Each peer review team completed a site visit report summarizing their findings and indicating plans for follow-up.

- **Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** Technical assistance, training and support to all funded programs were delivered by CCF staff. This assistance included telephone and e-mail consultation, and site visits. CCF required programs to attend an all-day orientation workshop for information about grant reporting requirements, program evaluation, CCF programs and resources, and on topic areas such as evaluation, public education, reframing child abuse and neglect, parent leadership, sustainability, advocacy, and implementing evidence-based program fidelity. CCF contracted with Organizational Research Services (ORS) to provide technical assistance to all CBCAP funded programs on evaluation. CCF contracted with the Area Health Education Center of Washington State University (WSU) to provide targeted technical assistance to support program implementation and the use of information for program development for the evidence-based home visitation grantees.

CCF also offered to all currently funded CBCAP programs a webinar training “Using Excel to Organize and Analyze Data” and a full day training entitled “Understanding and Communicating Program Data for Continuous Quality Improvement”.

Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	3,658	# families	1,325
	# children with disabilities	472	# parents with disabilities	63
Reach	# local grantees	23		
Spread	# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices	1	# professionals participating in training	



ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Structure for partnership:

Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Coalition

Home Visiting Coalition

Strengthening Families Washington

Key partners:

Public Sector

- Child welfare
- Public health/ maternal and child health
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Home visiting
- Mental health
- Head Start/ Early Head Start

- Child care
- Tribal programs
- Fatherhood programs

Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations
- Parent organizations
- Foundations

SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Early Childhood:** CCF was represented on the state's Early Learning Plan Steering Committee which was led by the Early Learning Advisory Council and the Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL). Results accomplished during the reporting period included developing the basic framework and focus areas for the plan and building a leadership role for parents. The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) plan framework was selected as the basic framework.
- **Home Visiting:** The Washington Home Visiting Coalition (HVC) is comprised of representatives of program models and statewide agencies with an interest in expanding and improving EBHV services in Washington including CCF. During the reporting period HVC was focused on building support for EBHV. Staff from the Pew Center for the States visited Washington to consider it for funding through their Home Visiting Initiative.

CCF was also successful in having home visiting identified as a top-level strategy in the state's Early Learning Plan.

CCF received national attention for their EBHV program which included the opportunity to present the approach at a meeting of the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support of the Committee on Ways and Means, and subsequently to provide comments on early drafts of this section of the federal health care legislation.

- **Strengthening Families:** The goal of Strengthening Families Washington (SFWA) is to embed child abuse and neglect prevention across multiple systems, including the early care and education system.



Work during this period focused on advancing parent partnerships and use of Community Cafes, securing resources to incorporate the SF protective factors into the state 211 system, providing training, and seeking resources to fund a project coordinator and special projects. One special project, a three-day Early Childhood Mental Health Institute provided training on the SF protective factors and their use as a framework for collaboration. Five cross-disciplinary teams from across the state which included parents participated in the institute.

CCF hosted leadership from the Center for Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and the Strengthening Families National Network (SFNN) for a site visit during this time period. Two meetings were held; one that attracted a number of private funders, local public officials and nonprofit directors, and one that included the participation of other state systems.

- **Mental Health:** CCF participated in the state’s Mental Health Transformation Project Prevention Advisory Group (PAG). PAG’s goal is to advance a public health approach to mental health and includes membership across multiple systems. CCF’s contribution to PAG is to educate participants on issues related to healthy early childhood development and mental health and to integrate positive messaging.

CCF also served on the Project LAUNCH (*Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health*) State Council. The state LAUNCH coordinator also serves on the Strengthening Families WA Steering Committee, creating multiple linkage opportunities. Common to both are a promotional approach, use of a PF framework, a focus on 0-3, home visiting infrastructure development, and other aspects of our system change priorities.

CCF continued to lead Washington’s Postpartum Depression awareness campaign, Speak Up When You’re Down, working with a cross system partnership and parent leaders. A focus of last year’s efforts was to locate resources to continue the campaign following state budget cuts.

FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

- Grantees are required to provide local match
- Specialty license plate fees and Heirloom Birth Certificates generate funds for the Children’s Trust Fund
- Blending of partner resources to provide training and further other initiatives

State Allowable Claims	2,565,708
Population-based Allocations	518,714
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	88,466
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	566,299



EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	\$100,050
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	\$273,320
Promising Programs and Practices	\$51,123
Supported Programs and Practices	\$106,481
Well Supported Programs and Practices	0

TRAINING TOPICS

Administrative and Management Topics

- Collaboration and partnerships for prevention
- Fiscal leveraging
- Evaluation and data management
- Program monitoring and continuous quality improvement
- Grant reporting requirements
- Strategic planning
- Grant reporting requirements
- Other (specify)

Programmatic and Service Topics

- Cultural competence
- Research on prevention and child maltreatment
- Evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices
- Home visiting
- Prevention programs and family support
- Promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors
- Marketing, messaging and public awareness

RESOURCES

- Comprehensive Prevention Resources: <http://www.ccf.wa.gov/prevention-resources>
- Resource Guide for Family Engagement: <http://www.ccf.wa.gov/sites/default...>
- Annual State Profiles: [www.friendsnrc.org/...](http://www.friendsnrc.org/)

