

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The FY 2009 CBCAP lead agency, the Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships (DPCP), is housed within the Department of Children and Families (DCF). As such it enjoys direct connection with other Divisions within DCF, including the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) and the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), NJ's child welfare agency. DPCP was integrally involved in the second round of NJ's Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) and Program Improvement Plan (PIP). All DPCP funded programs and CBCAP grantees are required to establish and maintain Parent Advisory Councils to provide input and advice for local prevention initiatives.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** During FY 2010, six new grants were awarded and the priority areas for funding were parenting education, fatherhood, and parenting support for families with children or parents with disabilities. All programs were required to replicate evidence-based models or to implement promising practices/programs. All also were required to be family-centered and culturally sensitive. All grantees were required to describe need (risk factors such as ethnic or marginalized populations, parents or children with impairments or disabilities, teen or single parents, families involved in substance abuse or domestic violence). Examples of CBCAP-funded programs include the F.E.L.L.A.S. (Fathers Empowered to Learn, Lead and Achieve Success) Program a community partnership led by the Northern New Jersey Maternal and Child Health Consortium that uses the 24/7 Dads curriculum; Strengthening Families-Autism providing education and support to families of children with autism offered by Advancing Opportunities and Autism New Jersey; and parent education and support using the Parents As Teachers home visitation model provided by the Central Jersey Maternal Child and Health Consortium in collaboration with the Somerset County Office of Youth Services.
- **Policy achievements:** DPCP worked in partnership with the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTFCAN) to develop the Statewide Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Plan. A survey of stakeholders (including parents) was developed and distributed. Two thousand responses were collected. Five regional forums solicited family strengthening strategies, and a draft was developed for stakeholder review. In addition, a statewide requirement for performance-based contracting led to formation of a workgroup to improve the state contracting process. DPCP was actively involved in reviewing contract outcomes and measures.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** DPCP Requests for Proposals (RFPs) specified that programs must be culturally sensitive. Grants targeted families with members who have disabilities or impairments, who are immigrant, or who are involved in substance abuse or domestic violence. Materials such as the statewide survey mentioned above and Strengthening Families handouts were translated into Spanish. In FY 2009 En Camp, a program for the Haitian community, developed child abuse prevention public awareness radio skits that presented real-life family problems. These were broadcast to 30,000 listeners on a Haitian Creole radio station. In addition, a Haitian Creole-speaking psychologist led parent training groups in a Haitian community. Six Haitian parents were trained to become group leaders and first co-led, then led parenting groups. Finally, in addition to offering many



flexible and varied programs especially designed for males, one grantee, the Parenting Center, adapted and implemented the Nurturing Program for inmate fathers in a correctional facility.

- **Parent involvement/leadership:** Governor Christie mentioned DPCPs commitment to parent involvement in his letter selecting the Division as the CBCAP lead agency. RFPs required parent-consumer involvement in program design, development, implementation, and evaluation. Parent input was an important element in developing the New Jersey Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Plan. Improving parent involvement is a primary goal of the Strengthening Families initiative. In FY 2010, parenting programs such as Effective Parenting were offered in churches and Head Start sites. In FY 2009, parent advisory and planning groups from programs such as Shaken Baby Prevention and Fatherhood Programs provided feedback that was used to modify programming to better meet family needs.
- **Evaluation:** DPCP RFPs required that grantees have an evaluation plan. During FY 2009, this plan took the form of a logic model adapted from the FRIENDS Outcome Accountability approach. DPCP monitored process and outcomes through site visits, review of progress reports, and review of consumer satisfaction surveys. Grantees were required to complete the CBCAP evidence-based and evidence-informed check list. Peer review followed the process outlined on the FRIENDS website. FY 2009 outcomes included in a 4-month follow-up of the Shaken Baby Prevention program, 96% of parents had increased coping skills for infant crying, and 98% had formal or informal support networks. The 24/7 Dad's program had over 100 males who reported positive behavior changes, increased use of community resources, and increased expression of emotion with the mother and child. One hundred percent of 24/7 staff were able to identify 5 personal behaviors that convey family support and 6 social/psychological issues unique to fathers.
- **Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** DPCP staff provided three formal Shared Parent Leadership, Cultural Competency, and Protective Factor trainings. An ABCs of Parent Leadership was facilitated for the CBCAP Grantees and their Parent Advisory Councils by Circle of Parents and FRIENDS. DPCP also used the FRIENDS Cultural Competency Training Tool. Protective Factor Survey training was provided by FRIENDS. Informal technical assistance was provided by DPCP staff during site visits regarding such issues as reporting requirements, enhancing outcomes, and developing logic models.



Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	2001	# families	536
	# children with disabilities		# parents with disabilities	
Reach	# local grantees	9		
Spread	# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices	2	# professionals participating in training	

ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

NJ Task Force for Child Abuse Prevention (NJTFCAP)

Public Sector

- Child welfare
- Differential or alternative response
- Public health/ maternal and child health
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Home visiting
- Substance abuse
- Mental health

- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Fatherhood programs

Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations
- Parent organizations
- Foundations
- Faith community

SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Early Childhood:** Over the past several years, DPCP has worked closely with state and local partners to ensure a system of care that provides coordination and integration of core services and supports early linkages to home visitation (see section below) and other community services. NJ is one of eight states included in the Build Initiative. As a participant in Build, DPCP worked to bring the ABCs of Parenting curriculum to 100 families at childcare programs. DPCP is also an active participant in the Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (ECCS) grant led by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. In 2010, DCF/DPCP was appointed to one of the core member seats in the newly formed New Jersey Council for Young Children (NJCYC) led by the NJ Department of Education to build stronger interdepartmental and interagency collaboration to ensure a shared vision for promoting effective early childhood services from pregnancy to age eight.
- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP):** DPCP worked closely with DYFS and key stakeholders on the second round of NJ's CFRS, participating in a statewide assessment of the



child welfare system, record review, and the on-site CFSP review. The resulting new 5-year plan incorporates prevention outcomes.

- **Home Visiting:** DCF/DPCP oversees the implementation of evidence-based home visitation services in 35 sites, reaching about 3,000 families. DCF is one of 17 ACF-funded evidence based home visitation (EBHV) grantees. Through an interdepartmental/interagency collaboration, the NJ Statewide Home Visiting Workgroup functions in an advisory capacity to promote the integration of EBHV services across the state. DPCP and key partners work with local communities to provide technical assistance, sponsor statewide meetings, and participate in the national cross-site and statewide EBHV evaluation.
- **State Interagency Coordinating Council for Part C:** Not mentioned, though CBCAP funded grantees provided respite care and other support services to families with young children with disabilities.
- **Strengthening Families:** One hundred eighty childcare centers representing every county in NJ involved 13,021 families in NJ’s Strengthening Families initiative. ABCs of Parenting curriculum was offered with flexible scheduling to accommodate working families. One hundred six participating centers developed Strengthening Families work plans to increase communication with families; DYFS and childcare centers offered cross training in early childhood development and child abuse prevention; childcare centers served on local stakeholder groups; DFYS workers received training on protective factors; and childcare centers made booklets on protective factors available to parents.
- **Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force:** The NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect is comprised of twenty-nine members including the Commissioners of DCF, Human Services, Education, Health and Senior Services, Community Affairs, Corrections, the Attorney General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Public Defender, The Office of the Child Advocate, the Superintendent of State Police, or their designees, a county prosecutor, two members of the Senate and the General Assembly representing both political parties, and thirteen public members appointed by the Governor. The Task Force goals are to optimize coordination, promote the safety of children at risk, ensure timely determination of child abuse reports, educate the public regarding the statewide plan for child abuse prevention, mobilize community agencies, foster cooperative state and local working relationships, and ensure services for victims.

FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

- State funds
- Tax check-off on state income tax

State Allowable Claims	57,588,000
Population-based Allocations	696,784
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	1,876,658
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	2,005,371



EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	0
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	\$29,538
Promising Programs and Practices	\$212,450
Supported Programs and Practices	\$62,518
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

Programmatic and Service Topics

- Cultural competence
- 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

- <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/prevention>
- Annual State Profiles: www.friendsnrc.org/

