

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is the State Lead Agency and is responsible for the development and implementation of a statewide network of community-based family resource centers and support programs through interdisciplinary governance and the pooling of federal, state and local funds. DPW's Office of Children, Youth and Families will implement the CBCAP grant.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** CBCAP programs and activities are guided as part of the state's Title IV –B PSSF efforts and child welfare planning and programming. Three CBCAP funded initiatives Family Centers, Promoting Responsible Fatherhood, and Child Abuse Prevention grants are funded as grants to county governments and school districts. The PA Family Support Alliance (PFSA) and Parent 2 Parent are operated through contract providers to supplement their existing funding and to provide additional services or new programming to meet the goals of CBCAP. There are 54 local PFSA affiliates in 43 counties operating 164 family support programs that reach 1500 individuals parents/caregivers each quarter and 600 unduplicated individuals per year. There are 65 funded Family Centers (FC) that use the Parents As Teachers Home Visiting Model which is a parenting education and support program that begins at the prenatal stage and extends to age 5. There are 14 promoting responsible fatherhood initiative grants that have served a total of 2325 fathers and 3441 children. Six counties receive Child Abuse Prevention Initiative grants.
- **Policy achievements:** The Governor's Commission for Children and Families is advancing a statewide preventions strategy based on the development of state and local partnerships and a framework that considers community level outcome indicators. DPW partnered with the Commission and other organizations to sponsor a Spotlight on Prevention practices. Now similar prevention efforts are occurring in other parts of the state. The framework also is used for the Integrated Children's Services Plan to encourage counties to consider specific local child outcomes indications and develop cross system plans to improve those outcomes.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** There are many different support groups that reach special populations such as incarcerated parents for 13 community correction centers, parents of teens, teens, Spanish-speaking families, parents who are in homeless shelters, fathers, grandparents raising grandchildren, and homeless individuals. Additionally the PFSA conducts targeted outreach to organizations primarily serving minority parents. The organizations then have access to all of PFSA's materials related to cultural competency and best practices for providing family support services to diverse populations. PFSA also works with the Maternity Care Coalition to provide parent education and support to a racially diverse group of women in recovery from drug addiction. The FCs provide culturally competent services as evidenced by their annual report.
- **Parent involvement/leadership:** The FCs focus on parent involvement. Their Board membership reflects the diversity of the community and includes parents. Parents must comprise at least 25% of the Board's composition. Parents involved in the FC become active members in their community. Parent involvement is also required in the FC Peer Review Process. PFSA staff provides training for each affiliate on engagement of parents in leadership roles. They use the "Building Communities Together" curriculum that provides training specific to staff on best practices for working with parent consumers as well as a component for parent consumers to assist them in identifying their own strengths. In the P2P program all employees are either a parent or family member of a child or an adult with a disability or special need. There are over 1312 volunteers. In addition, some of the counties provide Parent Leadership Trainings called "Parents as Leaders" that train and support



parents to become community volunteers, parent council members, public speakers and civic leaders. They were then referred for volunteer placements, committees and special engagements.

- Evaluation:** The evaluation outcomes for the PFSA Family Support Program show the following: 70% of participants indicated that they had gained much information as a result of attending FSP, 70% learned positive discipline techniques, 60% learned anger management, and 67% indicated they had improved use of community resources. Evaluations also showed that participants demonstrate and report increased self-esteem through predicating in the program. Almost all (98%) of the participants report having a better relationship with their child since attending the PFSA programs. The evaluation of the mandated reporter training indicated that while participants initially reported an average grade equal to an “F” regarding their level of knowledge prior to the training after completing the mandated reporter training the same individuals received a grade level equivalent to a “B”. Additionally the evaluation of the parenting education curriculum “Building Your Family” had a preliminary evaluation conducted that indicated that 89% of respondents reported that they received parenting information that increased their knowledge of their child’s development and provided valuable alternatives to the way they were interacting with their children.
- Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** PFSA provides training and TA to community based agencies establishing a new local support and mentoring group. They also provide training to individuals from local human service agencies wanting to facilitate PFSA support groups and for professionals that will be instructors of PFSA parenting education and life skills curriculum “Building Your Family”. TA was provided on topics such as marketing the support group to consumers and funders, challenging group dynamics, and funding the program. PFSA support groups demonstrate positive outcomes statewide. Assistance is provided through a senior research analyst with Johns Hopkins University. Individual data is extracted for affiliates for their communication with funds and various stakeholders.

Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	26,417	# families	14,573
	# children with disabilities	Estimate 30%	# parents with disabilities	338
Reach	# local grantees			
Spread	# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices		# professionals participating in training	800 mandated reporters

ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

System of Care and Integrated Childrens Services Plan Initiative
Family Center Initiative
Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance



Key partners:

Public Sector

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

- Fatherhood programs
- Adult and Juvenile Probation
- State university

Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations
- Parent organizations
- Faith community
- Library Association

SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Early Childhood efforts:** They include the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Strengthening Families, Head Start, Early Head Start, Supporting Evidence-based Home Visiting programs, and other efforts.
- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP):** DPW participated in all phases of the CFRS State Self-Assessment and onsite review and all Office of Children, Youth and Families, Division of Programs staff have been part of the Program Improvement Plan Development. The CBCAP grantees were also given the opportunity to present information for the state self-assessment. The DPW will have a significant role in the PIP development and implementation once approved.
- **Strengthening Families:** The Office of Children, Youth and Families in partnership with the Office of Child Development and Early Learning staff guide and oversee the implementation of the SFI. Over 30 staff members are trained by Zero to Three to provide regional and local trainings to early child care learning center staff and management. They also focus on improving coordination of research-based home visiting programs currently being implemented such as Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home Program, and overall prevention efforts with the PA Children's Trust Fund.
- **Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force:** The PA Family Support Alliance (PFSA) Initiative plays a major role in many of the DPW efforts for system reform and child maltreatment prevention efforts. They were involved in DPW advisory committees to develop recommendations for distribution through county child welfare offices to define, educate and promote safe sleep environments for infants and young children. They are invoked in trainings for mandated reporters as well as for undergraduate and graduate level curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh. They are continually developing new collaborative efforts for coordination and expansion of support and education programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. They have also played an instrumental role in Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities.



FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

- PA Children’s Trust Fund – funds generated through a \$10.00 surcharge on marriage/divorce applications

State Allowable Claims	1,374,537
Population-based Allocations	940,863
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	53,995
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	1,006,390

EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	\$179,074
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	\$358,149
Promising Programs and Practices	\$109,434
Supported Programs and Practices	0
Well Supported Programs and Practices	\$348,200

TRAINING TOPICS

Administrative and Management Topics

- collaboration and partnerships for prevention
- evaluation and data management
- program monitoring and continuous quality improvement
- 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

- Good website that is user-friendly resource for families <http://www.eriesprout.com/>
- Annual State Profiles: [www.friendsnrc.org/...](http://www.friendsnrc.org/)

