

Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

Annual Report

2010



**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Office of Child Development and Early Learning**

www.dpw.state.pa.us

www.pactf.org

Children's Trust Fund Mission

The purpose of the Children's Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect in Pennsylvania.

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.

The Children's Trust Fund Board believes that:

- ❖ every child has the right to be safe, nurtured and protected from abuse and neglect;
- ❖ every child should be given the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential by having access to Children's Trust Fund projects;
- ❖ every child has the right to grow up in a supportive, stable, permanent family;
- ❖ every community should be trusted and supported to make decisions about services most appropriate for its children and families; and
- ❖ the Children's Trust Fund Board respects the social, economic, cultural and racial diversity of Pennsylvania's communities.

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Support Center for Child Advocates,
Philadelphia

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Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice,
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Senator Kim Ward
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Senator LeAnna Washington
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Staff:

Todd Klunk, Executive Director
Acting Deputy Secretary
Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Carrie Collins, Program Manager
Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Fiscal Report

2009-2010

based on State Fiscal Year July-June

General Information

Pennsylvania's Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established in December 1988 by Act 1988-151 [11 P.S. §§ 2231-2238 relating to the Children's Trust Fund Act (CTFA)]. It operates under the administration of the CTF Board and is supported by the Department of Public Welfare (DPW). The CTF is dedicated to funding community-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Funds for the CTF are generated from a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints. These surcharges are paid into a special non-lapsing fund. Interest, donations and federal funds also contribute to the CTF. The CTF Board recently established the nonprofit supporting organization, Friends of the Children's Trust Fund, for the purpose of raising additional funds through philanthropy and promoting awareness of the CTF program and mission. The main objective of Friends is to increase CTF revenues and identify and secure new areas of funding.

The CTFA mandates that a 15-member Board administer the fund. The Board consists of three members from the Senate, appointed by the Senate President pro-tempore; three members from the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and nine public members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Deputy Secretary for DPW'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 staff employed in OCDEL's Bureau of Early Learning Services.

Children's Trust Fund grants are intended to develop new and innovative child abuse and neglect prevention programs in Pennsylvania. 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.

Beginning Balance:	\$ 897,418.20
Total Revenue:	\$1,102,663.01
<i>Marriage/Divorce Fees</i>	\$1,080,456.31
<i>Investment Income</i>	\$7,206.70
<i>Grants</i>	\$15,000.00
Total Funds Available	\$2,000,081.21
Total Expenditures	\$940,252.65
<i>Grant Payments</i>	\$934,804.17
<i>Operating Costs</i>	\$5,448.48
Ending Balance	\$1,059,828.56

2010-2011

based on State Fiscal Year July-June

Beginning Balance:	\$1,059,267.34*
	<i>Office of Budget reconciliation October 2010*</i>
Total Revenue:	\$1,210,072.52
<i>Marriage/Divorce Fees</i>	\$1,091,844.59
<i>Investment Income</i>	\$118,227.93
Total Funds Available	\$2,269,339.86
Total Expenditures	\$523,041.54
<i>Grant Payments</i>	\$515,268.93
<i>Operating Costs</i>	\$7,772.61
Ending Balance	\$1,746,298.32

Contributions may be sent 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**

Or visit our website at www.pactf.org

2010 At a Glance

Grant Funding:

- ❖ In 2009, the CTF Board invested funds into Pennsylvania's Strengthening Families Initiative in lieu of issuing a traditional Request for Application for community-based grant funding. Please refer to the next page for further information on this initiative.
- ❖ A Request for Application was issued in February 2010 with a funding focus on coaching and support services to family child care providers participating in the Keystone Stars program in effective strategies to strengthen families and build protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ Round 20 grantees began services in November 2010. Home visiting coaches regularly visit the participating registered family child care providers in their homes and coach and support the providers' work with children and their families. The goal is to enhance adult-child experiences and parent-provider relationships that build strong social-emotional competence in children while strengthening the families' own relationships and resilience.
- ❖ During its strategic planning process, the CTF Board shifted its funding focus for 2011 on comprehensive services to pregnant and parenting teens and young adults using evidence- or research-based strategies that strengthen families and build protective factors in order to prevent the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

Grantee Stats – Rounds 18 and 19:

- ❖ Rounds 18 and 19 began their third and second grant years, respectively.
- ❖ Grantees in Rounds 18 and 19 utilized the Strengthening Families approach in their work with families and early care and education providers. The Strengthening Families approach creates a child abuse and neglect prevention framework within early care and education settings, building upon protective factors within families.
- ❖ Approximately 2,500 children and their families and over 2,200 early childhood education providers were served across the state through grant-funded programs.
- ❖ Annual site visits were conducted with Round 19 grantees.
- ❖ Round 18 grantees received exit site visits at the conclusion of their three-year grants. Of these 11 grantees, 10 were able to secure funding to continue their programs.

Collaborative Work:

- ❖ CTF joined Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance for April 2010 Child Abuse Prevention Month events, including a Capitol kick-off event and mural paintings held in three areas of the state.
- ❖ The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Fund has been a primary collaborative partner in CTF's Strengthening Families work in Pennsylvania. CTF is an active participant in the National Alliance's Early Childhood Initiative, which focuses on promoting the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework into all services provided to children and families.

Grantees:

Round 20 (11/1/10-10/31/13)

Children's Aid Society
Clearfield County

Columbia County Family Center
Columbia County

Dickinson Mental Health Center
Elk County

H.A.N.D.S. of Wyoming County
Wyoming County

United Way of Bucks County
Bucks County

Round 19 (11/1/08-10/31/11)

Albert Einstein Healthcare Network
Philadelphia

Clarion County's Promise
Clarion County

Dickinson Mental Health Center (2 year grant)
Elk County

Every Child, Inc
Allegheny County

Fulton County Center for Families
Fulton County

Pottstown School District
Montgomery County

Round 18 (11/1/07-10/31/10)

Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Allegheny County

Beginnings, Inc
Cambria County

Caring People Alliance
Philadelphia

Community Action, Inc
Jefferson County

Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc
Erie County

Family Pathways
Butler County

Farrell Family Center
Mercer County

H.A.N.D.S. of Wyoming County
Wyoming County

Institute for Safe Families
Philadelphia

United Way of Bucks County
Bucks County

YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Allegheny County

Strengthening Families is an approach to working with families to prevent child abuse and neglect that builds upon their strengths, rather than focusing on their deficits. It is not a curriculum or a program, but instead offers a framework of five research-based Protective Factors that give parents what they need to parent effectively, even under stress.

The Five Protective Factors:

For adults:

- * **Parental resilience...** *“Parenting is part natural, part learned.”¹*
- * **Social connections for families...** *“Parents need friends.”*
- * **Knowledge of parenting and child development...** *“We all need help sometimes.”*
- * **Concrete supports in time of need...** *“Be strong and flexible.”*

For children:

- * **Healthy social and emotional development...** *“Help children communicate their feelings.”*

Pennsylvania, through funding from the Pennsylvania Children’s Trust Fund and National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds, joins 30 other states in using Strengthening Families as part of the core safety net and the first response to families under stress. This prevention approach reduces the chance that families will require more costly government services and is a cost-effective way to reduce abuse and neglect, lighten social service caseloads and improve school success.

Background

The Center for the Study of Social Policy identified a need to support early childhood programs’ support for families who are under stress. The Center researched and developed a set of strategies that involve early childhood programs working with families to build protective factors around children.

These factors are not new or unique to Strengthening Families; they are utilized less formally by many current child abuse prevention efforts. Strengthening Families compiles the protective factors into a meaningful and usable format that is easily understood by teachers and administrators of early childhood programs. A protective factors approach, such as Strengthening Families, has the advantage of being do-able, affordable and able to reach millions of children through the outreach to child care and other early learning settings that parents readily access for their children. The approach uses a strength-based model to build families’ capacities.

¹ Protective Factors in Parents’ Words. Strengthening Families Illinois, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. *Love is Not Enough to Keep Your Family Strong Campaign*. <http://www.KeepYourFamilyStrong.org>

Why should we do this work?

Implementing the Strengthening Families framework in PA provides:

- A purposeful and intentional approach to working with families in all child- and family-serving systems.
- Easy concepts for parents and professionals to grasp.
- A universally inclusive approach that values the input of parents working side by side with professionals.
- Common sense (or logical) linkages to many federal and state requirements.
- Support for all child and family service systems to view the connectedness of our work.
- A common language for child and family service systems to adopt in their work.

The Strengthening Families Leadership Team

Pennsylvania's efforts to integrate the Strengthening Families approach into its early childhood and child welfare programs has been led by a statewide Leadership Team that includes representatives from the Departments of Public Welfare and Education, as well as community-based service partners, early care and education programs, local school districts and Intermediate Units. The Team offers guidance to state child- and family-serving programs in incorporating the Strengthening Families approach within their work.

***Mission:** "Pennsylvania, through the Strengthening Families Leadership Team, works to sustain and weave the Five Protective Factors, which are social and emotional competence of children, knowledge of parenting and child development, social connections, concrete supports in times of need and parental resilience, into policies, program and practice across child and family service systems."*

Relationships * Strong Families * Respect

***Vision:** "Pennsylvania families will use a seamless network of committed partners who provide strength-based family supports."*

2010 Accomplishments

- ❖ The Strengthening Families (SF) Leadership Team expanded to include representatives from across various child- and family-serving systems that will incorporate the Protective Factors concept into their work.
- ❖ The Leadership Team completed a mission and vision statement and members are strategically moving the SF concepts into other child serving systems.
- ❖ In January 2010, a total of 40 people attended a Training of Trainers session on the SF Protective Factors, using the *Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect: Parent-Provider Partnerships* curriculum from Zero to Three. A majority of the attendees were representatives of OCDEL's Regional Key system, which provides professional development and technical assistance to early care and education providers throughout the state. Each of the trainers were charged with providing at least two SF trainings in their respective regions.
- ❖ In 2010, 355 people were trained in the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework, at community-based sessions throughout the state (primarily for early care and education providers) and at various meetings and conferences across service systems.



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