



Pennsylvania
Children's Trust Fund



pennsylvania
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS
AND COMMUNITIES

2021-2022

Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund and Strengthening Families™

ANNUAL REPORT



Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

The Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund (CTF), established in December 1988 by Act 1988-151 [11 P.S. §§ 2231-2238 relating to the Children's Trust Fund Act, operates under the administration of the 15-member CTF Board, which is composed of legislators appointed by the House and Senate and citizens appointed by the governor, and is supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The deputy secretary of DHS'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 OCDEL's Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports.

Preventing Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment continues to occur in Pennsylvania communities. In 2021 substantiated reports of child abuse rose from 1.7 per 1000 children to 1.9 per 100 children. Though an increase was expected in 2021 due to lower rates of reporting in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the numbers reflect a need for prevention efforts. To add to the continuum of prevention services in Pennsylvania, CTF funds community-based programs through three-year grants to implement evidence-based programs and promising practices. Funds support families to create safe and nurturing environments for their children. Grantees are asked to collaborate in their community, intentionally integrate the Strengthening Families Protective Factors™ (SFPF) Framework into their work and create a plan to sustain their programs after CTF funds have expired.

Funds for CTF are generated from a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints that are paid into a special non-lapsing fund. Interest and donations also contribute to the Fund. Since its inception, CTF has invested more than \$ 41.7 million through 328 grants. A full list of former grantees including the counties served can be found on the Children's Trust Fund website at pactf.org.

Grantees

Cohort 28 (2019-2022)

- Accion Comunal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County (ACLAMO).
- Child Care Consultants.
- Children’s Aid Society.
- Columbia County Commissioners.
- Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way.
- HANDS of Wyoming County.
- Jim Thorpe Area School District.
- National Nurse-led Care Consortium.
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Cohort 29 (2021-2024)

- Blueprints.
- Children’s Advocacy Center of Lawrence County Inc.
- Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County Inc.
- Family Connection of Easton.
- Family Services of Montgomery County.
- Lancaster General Hospital.
- Maternal and Family Health Services.
- Maternity Care Coalition.

Evidence-Based and Informed Programs Offered by CTF Grantees

- 24/7 Fatherhood Initiative Program.
- ACT Raising Safe Kids.
- Growing Great Kids.
- Moving Beyond Depression.
- Nurse-Family Partnership.
- Nursing-Legal Partnership.
- Nurturing Parenting Program
- ParentChild+.
- Parents as Teachers.
- Parents as Teachers/Parent Café.
- Triple P - Positive Parenting Program.



Fiscal Report 2021-2022

Based on state fiscal year July–June

Beginning Balance	\$931,262.80
Total Revenue	\$1,095,579.13
Marriage/Divorce Fees	\$1,052,476.41
Investment Income	\$1,287.88
Donations	\$41,814.84
Total Funds Available	\$2,026,841.93
Total Expenditures	\$1,084,717.48
Grant Payments	\$1,084,717.48
Operating Costs	(\$0.00)
Refunds	(\$10,589.19)
Ending Balance	\$942,124.45

Send your contributions to:

Children’s Trust Fund
 Department of Human Services
 Office of Child Development and Early Learning
 333 Market Street, 6th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
 Or visit our website at pactf.org

Children’s Trust Fund Board Members

Bruce Clash, Chair

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Pennsylvania

Angela Liddle, Vice-Chair

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

Representative Karen Boback

Wyoming, Lackawanna, and Luzerne counties

Representative Pamela DeLissio

Philadelphia and Montgomery counties

Senator Arthur Haywood

Philadelphia and Montgomery counties

Representative Joseph Petrarca

Westmoreland, Armstrong, and Indiana counties

Representative Tarah Toohil

Luzerne County

Rodney Wagner

York County Youth Development Center, York County

Impact

Safe Environments to Learn

Mom has been struggling with being in an abusive relationship for a long time. She has wanted to leave but didn't have the means, or place to go. Mom finally made the decision to go and has temporarily moved in with her sister. She has obtained a full-time job, earned her driver's license and secured a 3-year Protection From Abuse (PFA) against her ex-partner. She is taking steps to get her own apartment, has moved her son into an emotional support classroom and is making positive steps for a bright future! Quote from family: "I've got to do what's best for me and my babies!"

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County, Inc.

Parent Leadership

Our Parent Café team attended a Be Strong Parent Café Institute Training offered by Center for Schools and Communities (CSC). Three Parents as Teachers team members and two enrolled caregivers attended this three full day training institute. One of our Family Development Specialists embraced the leadership role of this team. A New Holland mother took time off work to participate. She joyfully shared with her daughter's early learning provider about this amazing opportunity to grow her leadership skills. A Columbia mother juggled her roles at home while actively participating in this virtual training. Each caregiver was provided a honorarium of \$450 for their time and future commitment to help facilitate a Parent Café in the spring.

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County, Inc.

Building Resilience

At post-assessment, client who came from family with history of addiction (her mother was unable to care for her growing up due to addiction, brother currently incarcerated due to addiction complications) stated that she had not used any marijuana since becoming pregnant (her baby is 10 months and she has been clean since pregnancy). She stated she does not need any drugs any longer "because I have ways to cope now." She has been very clear about her goal of breaking the pattern of generational trauma in her family. She has a stable living environment now for herself and her child. She just registered for an information session to enroll in the school program she dreamed of doing. She is a very attentive mother to her infant.

Lancaster General Hospital

Connect with Community Resources

One mom who has an 8-year-old, a 3-year-old, and a new baby was having trouble communicating with a local program to enroll her child. There were questions about eligibility. The family had moved to a new school district, and she had not worked since the pandemic and having her new baby. The CTF program staff was able to connect with the community program and provide the mother the opportunity to update her information. Based on the updated information she was able to enroll the child.

HANDS of Wyoming

Strengthening Parenting

One of the parents in the Building the Family parenting group reported that since participating in Building the Family she has become more patient with her children, and she continues to focus on improving her patience. She also shared that since participating in Building the Family she is spending more time with her children.

Maternity Care Coalition

Equity and Inclusion

A grantee providing services to refugee families was able to work with trainers from their evidence-based model to make modifications to the curriculum to make it more culturally relevant. This included adding additional graphics to aid understanding for participants with limited literacy or whose primary language was not English. The facilitator shared examples with the local school district and discussed with them how they could modify their communications with families in similar ways to improve family-school relationships.

United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Systems Innovations

One grantee pursued advocacy around structural determinants of health. An example of this included advocacy and education about utility shut offs and the impact on families. Staff worked with a local pediatric group and the Pennsylvania Utility Commission to streamline the process for pediatricians to issue medical certificates for families which explained that there is a medical need that requires continual utility service. They also worked with the local health department to ensure that public-facing messaging around this issue is inclusive of the prevention of illness for those at high risk.

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium





The Strengthening Families™ approach promotes the development of protective factors within families building on strengths, rather than focusing on risks.

It is not a curriculum or a program but a framework of five research-informed protective factors, identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, that support families so that even in stressful times child maltreatment may be prevented. It is based on the belief that all families have strengths, and all families need supports. When these protective factors are robust in families, children thrive.

The Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team (SFLT) works to promote the inclusion of the Protective Factors Framework into policies, programs, and practices in multiple family service systems throughout the state. The team consists of leaders in various systems and communities and collaborates directly with two national organizations – the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance (CTF Alliance) and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP). SFLT activities are supported by the CTF Board which contracts with Center for Schools and Communities (CSC) to facilitate this work.

CSC coordinated four SFLT meetings in 2021-2022, focused on effectively embedding the Strengthening Families approach in organizations and systems, family engagement, and strategic planning. CSC served as the lead for Be Strong Parent Café expansion and support. Staff organized five three-day Parent Café Training Institute-Online including one delivered entirely in Spanish, and facilitated one course to guide Parent Café team members transfer from online to place based Parent Cafes. CSC facilitates learning communities among certified instructors and with local Be Strong Parent Café teams.

Professional Learning Experiences

819 people participated in professional learning experiences in 2021-2022:

- 13 teams (100 participants) attended five online Parent Café Training Institutes.
- 12 participants attended one virtual to place-based Parent Café Crossover courses.
- 68 participants attended Pennsylvania Parent Café Learning Communities.
- 41 participants attended four virtual Building Protective Factors through Parents Café workshops.
- 43 participants attended four Hosting Meaningful Café Conversations workshops.
- 10 Be Strong Parent Café Instructors attended three Instructor’s Meetings.
- 99 Be Strong Parent Cafés were held across the state by local teams.
- 13 participants attended the Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work series.
- 135 participants attended 12 courses of Understanding the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework.
- 111 participants attended Strengthening Families™: Building your Toolkit Family Support Webinar.
- 356 participants attended the 2021 Strengthen Families Conference which was held online.