

Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund and Strengthening Families™

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

The Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established in December 1988 by Act 1988-151 [11 P.S. §§ 2231-2238] and is supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS). CTF 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. The Deputy Secretary of DHS' Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) serves as CTF's Executive Director and carries out the duties and responsibilities assigned by the Board through OCDEL's Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports.

pactf.org



Pennsylvania
Children's Trust Fund



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS
AND COMMUNITIES

Preventing Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment continues to occur in Pennsylvania communities. Substantiated reports of child abuse decreased from 1.9 per 1,000 children in 2021 to 1.8 per 1,000 children in 2022.¹ However, this is still up from 1.7 per 1,000 children reported in 2020.² The CTF Board funds community-based programs through three-year grants to implement evidence-based programs and promising practices that are designed to promote child well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect. The funded programs 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 the work, and create a plan to sustain their programs after CTF funds have expired.

Funds for CTF are generated from a surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints, State Income Tax check-off option, and online vehicle registration and driver's license renewals that are paid into a special non-lapsing fund. Since its inception, CTF has invested more than \$42.7 million through 335 grants. A full list of former grantees, including the counties served, can be found on the Children's Trust Fund website at pactf.org.

¹ Department of Human Services (2023). Child Protective Services 2022 Annual Report.

² Department of Human Services (2022). Child Protective Services 2021 Annual Report.

Children's Trust Fund Board Members

Bruce Clash, Chair
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Pennsylvania

Angela Liddle, Vice-Chair
Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

Rodney Wagner
York County Youth Development Center,
York County

Senator Arthur Haywood
Philadelphia and Montgomery counties

Representative Donna Bullock
Philadelphia County

Representative Ann Flood
Northampton County

Grantees

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

Cohort 30 (2022-2025)

- Community Connections for Children, Inc. (Formerly Child Care Consultants)
- Columbia County Commissioners
- Family Service Association of Bucks County
- Jim Thorpe Area School District
- Maternal and Child Health Consortium
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
- The Learning Lamp

Evidence-Based and Informed Programs Offered by CTF Grantees

- 24/7 Dad
- Growing Great Kids
- Moving Beyond Depression
- Nurse-Family Partnership (enhanced resource navigation)
- Nursing-Legal Partnership (enhanced resource navigation)
- Nurturing Parenting Program
- ParentChild+
- Parents as Teachers
- Triple P - Positive Parenting Program

Impact

Triple P has offered different groups throughout the county over the past year. Recently, we had several referrals through Probation that all came in around the same time. We were able to offer a lunchtime group to accommodate work hours. Four fathers enrolled in the Lunch and Learn Group. The dads were engaged and were able to learn from others' experiences. All four fathers attended and completed the program.

— Family Services of Montgomery County

One of the best success stories is when a parent realizes that the PAT Program is really in place to help them, not just their children! "S" is just that parent. Activities we do at visits are done after visits and I get updates and sometimes photos. "S" also shares with me the new skills her children are doing, and she is now looking for progress and recognizing their growth. According to "S", she has followed through with several community resources provided which could result in some favorable changes for the children, including quality childcare enrollment and a job for "S". Although there have been several serious issues that have recently affected the family, "S" has not lost sight of the fact that her children are her #1 priority.

— Community Connections for Children, Inc.

A mother in a Nurturing Parenting program discussed how she was raised in an abusive home and wants to stop that cycle of abuse. She wants to be the best parent she can be and learn how to do things differently.

— Blueprints

A father in a Parents as Teachers Program noted how important it is for him and his child to attend Group Connections, so they are not isolated at home. The father mentioned how the Group Connections allow him the opportunity to talk to other parents about parenting and allow his child to interact with other children.

— Maternal Child Health Consortium

A participant in a Triple P Program explained that her parents used fear as a component when parenting her. She realized that she must start with how she thinks, consider how she was raised, and overcome that generational learning because that is not how she wants to parent her children.

— Family Services of Montgomery County



Fiscal Report 2022-2023

Based on state fiscal year July–June

Beginning Balance	\$942,124.45
Total Revenue	\$ 1,092,015.83
Marriage/Divorce Fees	\$1,042,719.80
Investment Income	\$34,316.07
Donations	\$14,979.96
Total Funds Available	\$2,034,140.28
Total Expenditures	\$987,782.18
Grant Payments	\$988,000.44
Operating Costs	(\$0.00)
Refunds	(\$218.26)
Ending Balance	\$1,046,358.10

Send your contributions to:

Children's Trust Fund
Department of Human Services
Office of Child Development and Early Learning
607 South Drive, 4th Floor Rotunda
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Or visit our website at pactf.org



Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team

Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Leadership Team (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 2022-2023, focused on effectively embedding the Strengthening Families™ approach in organizations and systems, promoting family engagement and leadership, and facilitating the strategic plan update. CSC served as the lead for Be Strong Parent Café expansion and support and led the transition from online Parent Cafés to place-based Parent Cafés.

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.

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 support. When these protective factors are robust in families, children thrive.

Professional Learning Experiences

1,384 people participated in professional learning experiences in 2022-2023:

- **26** participants attended the Cohort 30 CTF Grantee Orientation.
- **37** participants attended the CTF Logic Model and Outcomes Reporting webinar.
- **530** participants attended six webinars focused on best practices in family support.
- **92** participants (representing 19 teams) attended four place-based Parent Café Training Institutes.
- **35** participants (representing nine teams) attended three virtual to place-based Parent Café Crossover courses.
- **45** Participants attended four Pennsylvania Parent Café Learning Communities.
- **25** participants attended two virtual Building Protective Factors through Parents Café workshops.
- **27** participants attended two virtual Hosting Meaningful Café Conversations workshops.
- **78** participants attended six Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work courses.
- **97** participants attended three workshops focused on family engagement informed by the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework.
- **26** participants attended two Strengthening Families Overview workshops.
- **101** participants attended two Strengthening Families Protective Factors Orientation sessions.
- **265** participants attended the 2022 Strengthening Families Conference which was place-based and held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.