

Children's Trust Fund Board Meeting

Agenda & Notes

Thursday, April 27, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom: <https://csiu.zoom.us/j/93396094796>

Meeting ID: 933 9609 4796

or

Phone: 646-876-9923 or 646-931-3860

[1988 Act 151](#)

10:00 AM - Call to Order

Lead: Paul DiLorenzo, CTF Board Chair

CTF Board Chair Paul DiLorenzo called the meeting to order and reminded Board Members of the meeting's purpose.

10:00 AM Quorum Requirement Satisfied: YES

Lead: Lisa Parker, OCDEL

10:05 AM – Actionable Items

Lead: Paul DiLorenzo, CTF Board Chair

Approval of January 22, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Kristi Lyons moved to approve January 22, 2026, CTF Board Meeting Minutes without amendments.

Second: Phil Falvo seconded the motion

Board vote: YES – Unanimous; NO – None

10:10 AM – Fiscal Report

Lead: Jordan Arment, OCDEL

Jordan Arment provided a fiscal report. The report was emailed during the meeting. As of March 2026, the year-to-date revenue is approximately 1.08 million with an ending balance of approximately 2.5 million. Helping Hands, Inc. relinquished their grant which resulted in the return of funds. The funds returned to the CTF account and are reflected in the fiscal report. Based on the funds available, the CTF Board can support up to 21 grantees per three-year cohort. Cathleen Palm asked about the status of an RFA to be released in 2026. Lisa Parker shared that the same RFA is ready to be released in Fall 2026, with selection to take place in January 2027 for cohort 34.

10:15 AM – Cohort 33 Grantee Selection

Lead: Lisa Parker, OCDEL

Discussion: Board Chair Paul DiLorenzo explained three scenarios based on the maximum number of grantees that can be funded each three-year cohort – 21. The CTF Board could choose to:

1. Approve 21 applications from this request for applications (RFA). This would preclude the board from issuing an RFA and awarding grants for the next two years (2026 and 2027) while the approved grantees in Cohort 33 complete the three-year cohort.
2. Approve 15 applications from this request for applications (RFA). The CTF Board could then release another RFA (Cohort 34) in 2026 with a July 1, 2027 start date. Six applications could be awarded. The CTF Board would not release an RFA in 2027.
3. Approve seven applications from this request for applications (RFA). The CTF Board could then release RFAs in 2026 (Cohort 34) and 2027 (Cohort 35) and award seven grantees in each cohort.
4. Or any variation of the number of grantees over a three-year period totaling 21.

Paul DiLorenzo thanked everyone involved in the RFA process while acknowledging the challenges that occurred. He asked that board members fully engage in the discussion about grantee selection.

Cathleen Palm asked if an executive session would be needed or if the discussion would be public. Rebecca Snyder, OCDEL Legal, clarified that because the RFA scoring is complete, discussions can be public.

Lisa Parker, OCDEL, reviewed the grantee selection process. To clarify, all 40 applications received were reviewed and scored by each member of a small evaluation team using the same RFA Technical Evaluation Criteria Workbook for each of the 40. Once each team member individually scored all 40 applications, the evaluation team met as a group with procurement to discuss the completed workbooks for all 40 applicants to make any changes needed and finalize scoring. Procurement takes the information and creates a list of the 40 applicants ranked in order of highest scores. A spreadsheet with information about applicants and the ranking was provided to board members. Final selection is determined by ranking, and equitable geographic distribution as required by the statute. The RFA calls for funding at least one project in four of the seven geographical regions. The board may choose to fund projects in all regions. After applicants are chosen, they are notified of their award and go through the contracting process.

Norrell Atkinson asked if applicants are notified of disqualification before the scoring process. To clarify, none of the applicants were disqualified prior to the scoring process. All 40 were reviewed and scored. 28 of the 40 applications reviewed had a final qualifying score of at least 75% as required by the RFA. Lisa Parker reviewed the 28 applicants with qualifying scores and provided a short description of each proposed program. All applicants are notified of their selection or non-selection once the process is complete.

A question was raised about the total budgets listed on the spreadsheet. Lisa Parker explained that some programs listed a budget higher than allowable grant amount of \$150,000 because they included funding identified from other sources that will support the proposed CTF-funded program.

The Board asked that in the future the amount requested from CTF be listed separately from the total budget in these cases.

Paul DiLorenzo opened the floor for discussion about how many applicants should be approved.

Jennie Hagerty expressed that approving seven applicants at this time would spread out funding over the next three years.

Representative Joe Hogan noted that approving 21 would provide the maximum amount of funding which could be beneficial to programs given recent reductions in federal funding. In addition, the CTF Board could learn from a larger number of programs.

Cathleen Palm raised concerns about the process to modify the RFA and if the process was the same to make changes to the RFA it could influence the decision on how many applications are approved in this round. The Board could fund 21 now and then work to update the RFA and the selection process before releasing another RFA. She also acknowledged the benefits of spreading out the funding over the next three years. She expressed feeling ill-prepared to make a decision because of the lack of detail about applications, specifically around why some were disqualified.

Phil Falvo noted the diversity of the applicants and the representation of programs throughout the state as a reason to approve 21 applications.

Paul DiLorenzo expressed interest in approving 21.

Jennie Hagerty stated that after hearing the discussion she felt approving 21 grantees to be the best option.

Cathleen Palm questioned moving forward without knowing the reasons for disqualifications. Paul DiLorenzo asked if any other Board members shared this concern. No other Board members expressed this concern.

Cathleen Palm stated that she will abstain from voting on the approval of applicants because she read 25% of the applications during her time on the scoring committee. Lisa Parker asked Rebecca Snyder, OCDEL Legal, if Board members who started the scoring process but did not complete were required to abstain. Rebecca Snyder responded that they do not need to abstain and abstentions do not count toward a quorum.

Representative Joe Hogan asked about the notification process. Lisa Parker explained that approved applicants would be notified by procurement. The board will be notified once the grantee notifications have gone out. Lisa Parker will pursue completing a press release once grantees are notified.

Action: Representative Joe Hogan moved to approve the 21 highest-ranked applicants.

Second: Phil Falvo seconded the motion.

Board vote: YES – Unanimous; NO – None; ABSTAINED -Cathleen Palm

11:30 AM - CSC Update

Grantee Updates

Rijelle Kraft, Center for Schools and Communities (CSC), provided a summary of grantee progress. The grantee on an improvement plan has enrolled another family, bringing the total to 12 enrolled families of the three-year goal of 15. The other grantee has met their three-year goal for enrollment.

Quarterly Report

Shannon Downey, CSC, summarized the third quarter report provided to the CTF Board in advance of the meeting highlighting the webinar in March focused on collaboration with child welfare agencies.

2026 Strengthening Families Conference

Rijelle Kraft, CSC, shared that the conference will be held May 5-7, 2026, in Lancaster, PA at the Double Tree Resort. CTF grantees are asked to attend this professional learning opportunity. The CTF Annual Grantee Meeting, which grantees are required to attend will be held on May 5, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Current and past grantees will be in attendance. Board members are encouraged to attend, and should let Rijelle Kraft know.

11:45 AM - New Business

June 18, 2026, CTF Board Meeting/Retreat

Paul DiLorenzo shared that the Board will meet in person on June 18, 2026. Board members are asked to arrive on June 17, 2026 for dinner. The following day will feature a facilitated conversation with an outside facilitator. The facilitator may reach out to Board members in advance of the June 18 session and there may be virtual gatherings following June 18. The session will provide an opportunity for level-setting and will not cover all aspects of strategic planning. Paul DiLorenzo asked for feedback from the Board on the structure of the retreat.

Representative Joe Hogan noted he would not be able to attend the dinner on June 17 and asked if there would be a virtual option for this meeting. That can be arranged. Jennie Hagerty and Norell Atkinson expressed that they plan to attend in person. Phil Falvo anticipated being able to attend dependent on schedule.

11:50 AM – Committee Reports

Prevention Committee

Lead: Dr. Norrell Atkinson

No report.

CTF Statute Rework Committee

Lead: Paul DiLorenzo

Paul DiLorenzo mentioned that a group will be pulled together to discuss this but likely not before

the session on June 18.

RFA Committee

Lead: Cathleen Palm

No Report

11:55 AM - Wrap up and conclusion

Lead: Paul DiLorenzo, CTF Board Chair

Lisa Parker reminded public board members that Statements of Financial Interest forms must be filed by May 1, 2026.

Action: Motion to adjourn:

Second:

Board vote: Majority – YES/NO

Ranking	Applicant Name	County	Region
1	Bethany Christian Services of Greater Delaware Valley	Bucks	7
2	Bethany Christian Services of Central Pennsylvania	York	5
3	Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County	Erie	1
4	Family Services of Montgomery County	Montgomery	7
5	Columbia County Commissioners	Columbia	4
6	Maternity Care Coalition	Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, Chester	7
7	Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc.	Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wayne	2
8	The Foundation for Delaware County	Delaware	7
9	Maternal and Child Health Consortium	Chester	7
10	Third Street Alliance for Women and Children	Northampton	6
11	Children's Crisis Treatment Center	Philadelphia	7
12	United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania	Lackawanna	2
13	SPCA of Luzerne County	Luzerne	2
14	Connected Nest	Allegheny, Beaver, Butler	3
15	Family Connection of Easton, Inc	Northampton	6
16	KenCrest Services	Philadelphia	7

17	Juniata County Children and Youth Social Services Agency	Juniata	4
18	Mercer County NAACP Unit 2273	Mercer	6
19	Geisinger Clinic	Northumberland	4
20	NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance)	Bucks	7
21	Merakey Children's Services	Philadelphia	7

**Thursday,
April 27, 2026
Attendees**

State	Board Members	Other Attendees
☒ Lisa Parker (DHS – OCDEL) ☐ Staci Kenney (DHS – OCDEL) ☒ Jameekia Barnett (DHS – Policy) ☒ Rebecca Snyder (DHS – Legal) ☐ Matt Firestone (DHS – OCDEL) ☐ Greg Swartzlander (DHS – OCDEL) ☐ Christine Baldini (DHS – OCDEL) ☒ Jordan Arment (DHS – OCDEL) ☐ Denna Bateman (DHS-OCDEL) ☒ Shante’ A Brown (DHS – OCDEL) ☐ Kendrick Fischer (DHS – Leg Affairs) ☐ Laval Miller-Wilson (DHS - OCYF) ☐ Kimberly Rode (DHS – OCDEL) ☐ Haley Shultz (DHS – Legislative Affairs)	Legislative Board Members ☒ Sen. Art Haywood, District 4 Represented by: ☒ Erin Serre ☒ Rep. Joe Hogan, District 138 Represented by: ☐ ☒ Rep. Lindsay Powel, District 21 Represented by: ☒ Megan Sharkey ☐ Rep. Jeanne McNeill, District 133 Represented by: ☐ Public Board Members 1. ☒ Paul DiLorenzo, Chair 2. ☒ Phil Falvo 3. ☒ Kristi Lyons 4. ☐ Nacole Hough 5. ☒ Cathleen Palm 6. ☐ Lindy Keefe 7. ☐ Bruce Erb 8. ☒ Jennie Lynn Hagerty 9. ☒ Norrell Atkinson	☒ Shannon Downey (CSC) ☒ Rijelle Kraft (CSC) ☒ Jennifer Esposito (CSC) ☐ Susan Good – Exec. Dir. House C&Y Committee