



Continuous Quality Improvement in PA

Engaging Families and Communities to Support Positive Child Outcomes (K3)

The purpose of this form is to provide information about initiatives that could support programs in addressing CQI after needs are identified through examination of relevant sources of evidence.

Title of activity/initiative:	Strengthening Families Initiative
Purpose, goal and expected outcomes of the initiative. How is this activity important to program quality?	<p>Strengthening Families is not a curriculum or program; it is an approach to working with families to prevent child abuse and neglect that builds upon their strengths, rather than focusing on their deficits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will become stronger and more resilient. • Children will be better prepared to succeed. • Child abuse and neglect will be decreased. • Service providers will be more aware of steps they can take to support parents and families in need within their programs.
Description of initiative and any component parts (Technical assistance available, professional development, program assessment inventories, etc.)	<p>Strengthening Families is a framework of five research-based Protective Factors that give parents what they need to parent effectively, even under stress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ For adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parental resilience ○ Social connections for families ○ Knowledge of parenting and child development ○ Concrete supports in time of need ◆ For children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthy social and emotional development <p>Pennsylvania’s Strengthening Families Initiative focuses on sustainably weaving this strength-based framework into existing policies, programs and practice across child and family service systems and is guided by a cross-systems leadership team.</p> <p>Professional development is offered across the state to increase awareness of protective factors and other areas of family support so they can be incorporated into child and family service systems.</p>
Program eligibility criteria or recommended programs for initiative	<p>Age Group Serving: <input type="checkbox"/> Infant/Toddler <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> SACC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All</p> <p>Program Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> Early Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> PA Pre-K Counts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention Providers <input type="checkbox"/> School District</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PCHP <input type="checkbox"/> NFP <input type="checkbox"/> Keystone Babies</p> <p>Child Care: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> STAR 1 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 2 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 3 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Center <input type="checkbox"/> Group <input type="checkbox"/> Family</p>
Website(s) for initiative	http://www.pa-strengthening-families.net
Identify focus areas the initiative addresses	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Competencies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Best Practice in Teaching and Learning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Competence and Supporting Diversity</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaging Families</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Children/Families/Practitioners</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social Emotional Competence and Challenging Behavior</p>

	X Other (list): Safe and Stable Families
Other initiatives, resources, organizations or professional development that support or enhance the initiative	<p>DPW – Office of Children, Youth and Families/Child Welfare Training Program DPW – Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services PA Children’s Trust Fund Center for Schools and Communities Pennsylvania Key and Regional Keys Early Childhood Mental Health LEARN Teams Head Start/Early Head Start Early Intervention Technical Assistance PDE – Project ELECT; Family Literacy PA Parent Information and Resource Centers (PIRC) School Districts and Intermediate Units PA Parent-Teacher Association PA Association for the Education of Young Children DOH – Violence and Injury Prevention Program PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency PA Family Support Alliance American Academy of Pediatrics-PA Chapter/Prevent Child Abuse-PA Chapter Local United Way agencies</p>
Audiences for direct participation in the initiative, list all that apply	<p>X Directors X Management/Leadership Teams X Teachers X Assistant Teachers X All Staff X Parents X Board Members X Community Stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Children Is a component of the initiative that information be brought back to the program and intentionally shared with others? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not necessarily Notes: Child welfare agencies, community organizations, child and family service providers</p>
Research or national context to support the initiative	<p>The Center for the Study of Social Policy researched and developed a set of strategies that involve early childhood programs working with families to build protective factors to prevent child abuse and neglect. The approach changes the focus from a deficit model of what needs to be changed to a strength-based model of building families’ capacities. Many national organizations have embraced the Strengthening Families approach, which has led to the development of state Strengthening Families Initiatives across the country.</p>
Keystone STARS or Program Standards addressed and CBK Topic Codes (if applicable)	<p>Parent Engagement Knowledge Area 2: The Environment, Curriculum and Content Area 3: Families in Society</p>
Additional information or materials	<p>http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net http://sites.google.com/site/allianceecitheoryofchange/ http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net/index.php/about/category/the_basics/ http://www.ddcf.org/Child-Abuse-Prevention/</p>

Other clarification or information about the activity	<p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • A cost-effective way to reduce abuse and neglect, lighten social service caseloads and improve school success
Contact person for questions about this Initiative	<p>Carrie Collins, Family Support Program Manager OCDEL ccollins@pa.gov</p>