

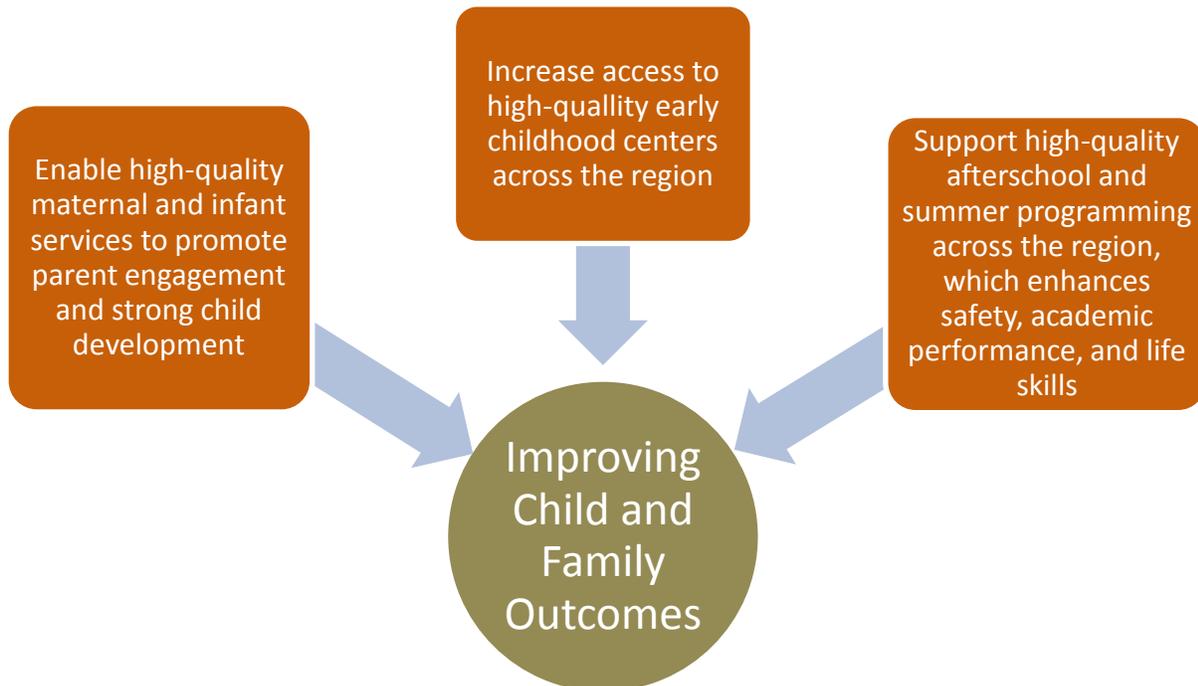


*Investing in the health & vitality of Jefferson Hospital communities*

## **Priority Brief for Improving Child and Family Outcomes**

**Jefferson Regional Foundation Grants Committee**

**March 11, 2015**



## **Introduction and Purpose**

In September 2014, the Board of Directors for the Jefferson Regional Foundation adopted strategic priorities to guide the investment activities of the Foundation. These priorities were designed based on information from the 2012 Jefferson Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), additional community data, interviews and focus groups, the intensive work of the Board in its strategic planning and the deliberations of the Grants Committee in its early meetings. The priorities guide the grantmaking program, including the Foundation's mission-based commitment to outreach and education opportunities such as networking, trainings, and technical assistance to providers serving the Jefferson area. Through the Foundation's work in each of these priority areas, Jefferson Hospital's reach into the communities where their patients live, work, and play is strengthened and the community needs identified through the CHNA are minimized.

The current priorities of the Foundation are: increasing health access and prevention, improving child and family outcomes, and strengthening vulnerable populations and communities. The purpose of this priority brief is for Foundation staff and Grants Committee members to develop a deeper understanding of the Foundation's "Improving Child and Family Outcomes" priority. This brief will include a broad description of the funding landscape, key providers operating in this area, how the Foundation has invested to date, and future opportunities.

## **The Landscape**

Investment in children often leads to longer-term outcomes and societal health benefits. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study showed a significant relationship between childhood experiences of abuse and family stress (incarcerated parents, addicted parents, or violence) and a host of negative adult and mental health outcomes. Children who experienced adverse childhood experiences were found to have increased risk of drug use, addiction, and suicide attempts as teens and adults. Children are particularly impacted by poverty because of their dependence on their family incomes. In the United States:

- The poverty rate for children is higher than any other age group; nearly one-third of all children in the U.S. will fall below the poverty level before they enter adulthood.
- Child poverty varies by race; nearly 9 out of 10 children living in a chronic state of poverty are African American.
- Children who grow up in poverty are more than six times more likely to be poor in their mid-twenties.

In Allegheny County and the Jefferson Area:

- Poverty rates in Allegheny County have increased. In 2000, the county reported a poverty rate of 11%; by 2010 it was 13%.
- The percentage of children under 5 living at 100% of federal poverty level (for a family of 4, an income of \$24,250) in the Jefferson area ranges from 12% in the Elizabeth Forward school district to 83% in Duquesne City. Only Bethel Park school district has no children in this category.

- As of July 2014, 3,925 children in 1,841 families were receiving services from the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) for cases of child abuse/neglect.
- There is clear evidence of growing suburban poverty in local school districts. From 2005 to 2013 in the Jefferson area, school districts with increases of 10 percentage points or more in the number of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches include: Brentwood, East Allegheny, Elizabeth Forward, Keystone Oaks, South Allegheny, Steel Valley, and West Mifflin Area.

School District	Percent Free and Reduced 2005	Percent Free and Reduced 2013	Change in Percentage Points
Baldwin-Whitehall	26%	31%	5
Bethel Park	6%	12%	6
Brentwood Borough	29%	46%	17
Clairton City	85%	91%	6
Duquesne City	85%	95%	10
East Allegheny	42%	63%	21
Elizabeth Forward	24%	35%	11
Keystone Oaks	24%	34%	10
McKeesport Area	65%	74%	9
South Allegheny	42%	54%	12
South Park	14%	22%	8
Steel Valley	51%	65%	14
West Jefferson	11%	16%	5
West Mifflin Area	30%	51%	21

The Foundation priority of “Improving Child and Family Outcomes” has three focus areas:

**1) Enable high-quality maternal and infant services to promote parent engagement and strong child development**

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system.

- Allegheny County’s infant mortality rate was 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, much higher than the national average (6.1).
- In the Jefferson area, an infant mortality rate of 17% was found among African-American babies; 3% for white babies.
- The following gives key indicators for some of the Jefferson area of pregnancy factors and outcomes from recent Allegheny County Health Department information:

	<b>% Received First Trimester Care</b>	<b>% Smoked While Pregnant</b>	<b>% of Births with Low Birth Weight</b>
<b>Allegheny County</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Baldwin Borough	93%	19%	7%
Baldwin Township	100%	12%	18%
Brentwood	91%	22%	10%
Castle Shannon	86%	18%	5%
Clairton	98%	38%	13%
Elizabeth Borough	85%	39%	8%
Jefferson Hills	94%	8%	6%
Pleasant Hills	97%	12%	3%
South Park	98%	19%	4%
West Elizabeth	100%	50%	-
Whitehall	98%	8%	2%

Strong local partners in this area include the Allegheny Department of Health and the Allegheny Department of Human Services (DHS). The Allegheny Department of Health coordinates the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program. WIC is a federal program that provides supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. There are 9 WIC office locations in Allegheny County, 3 in the Jefferson area located in Clairton, McKeesport, and Mt. Oliver.

Allegheny County DHS funds a network of neighborhood family support centers across the county. These centers focus on families with children ages 0-5 and provide child development support, parental education, medical support, health insurance support and other services. Several centers are located in the Jefferson area: Clairton, Duquesne, McKeesport, Prospect Park, Homestead and the Latino Family Center. Extensive evaluation is being conducted on the family support centers by Allegheny County DHS and Pitt’s Office of Child Development. Foundation staff has been engaged with other local foundations around the evaluation results for best practices in family support centers.

In addition, Allegheny County DHS and local foundations fund several programs and initiatives around maternal and child outcomes. A quick search on PA 2-1-1 Southwest (a free resource and information hub that connects people with community, health and disaster services in 11 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania) found 40 organizations related to “infants” within 10 miles of Jefferson Hospital. The search does include WIC offices and family support centers in the results and includes some areas outside of the Jefferson area (Swissvale, Braddock, Wilkinsburg, etc.)

## **2) Increase access to high-quality early childhood centers across the region**

Early childhood education has shown strong returns on investment, has been a focus for all levels of government, and has strong local partners.

- Investing in early childhood education shows clear impact, with every dollar invested in high quality Pre-K programs returning \$16 to communities via reduced spending on crime, education, and welfare, and greater earning potential and taxes paid in adulthood.
- President Obama announced a \$1 billion dollar federal investment; PA Governor Tom Wolf is supporting universal access to preschool for all 3 and 4 year old children, and City of Pittsburgh

School District	% of Regulated Providers in STARS
Baldwin-Whitehall SD	31%
Belle-Vernon	50%
Bethel Park SD	69%
Brentwood Borough SD	38%
Clairton City SD	0%
Duquesne City SD	43%
East Allegheny SD	30%
Elizabeth Forward SD	17%
Keystone Oaks SD	56%
McKeesport Area SD	46%
South Allegheny SD	67%
South Park SD	50%
Steel Valley SD	52%
West Jefferson Hills SD	42%
West Mifflin Area SD	22%
<b>Total In Area</b>	<b>45%</b>

Mayor Bill Peduto declared by Executive Order the formation of “The Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Early Childhood Education.”

- Local foundations have been generous in this area most notably the Heinz Endowments and the Grable Foundation.
- The Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) is a strong partner in this work both in building capacity of early childhood centers and assisting with policy advocacy at the local and federal levels.
- University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Child Development has been funded by local foundations to do extensive research on the benefits of early childhood education.

Low income children are most often those not receiving early childhood education services. Federal and state funding programs (Head Start, Early Head Start, pre-K Counts) offer early childhood programming to very low-income families, but there are limits on funding and capacity and the demand far outweighs the supply. In addition, low income children are often not in licensed childcare centers and are taken care of by family or friends in a home setting. Much of the current work around early childhood centers focuses around building the quality of both licensed child care centers and home based child care centers.

PA has a childcare center rating system called Keystone STARS to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs. Performance standards are grouped into four levels (STAR 1-4) and each level builds on the previous. The STARS address staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management.

The Jefferson area has a total of 161 childcare providers registered with the PA Department of Human Services: 43 childcare centers in STAR 1, 12 centers in STAR 2, 7 centers in STAR 3, 11 centers in STAR 4, and 88 (55%) centers that are not enrolled in the STARS program. The table to the left shows the percentage of centers by school districts in the Jefferson area.

### **3) Support high-quality afterschool and summer programming across the region, which enhances safety, academic performance and life skills**

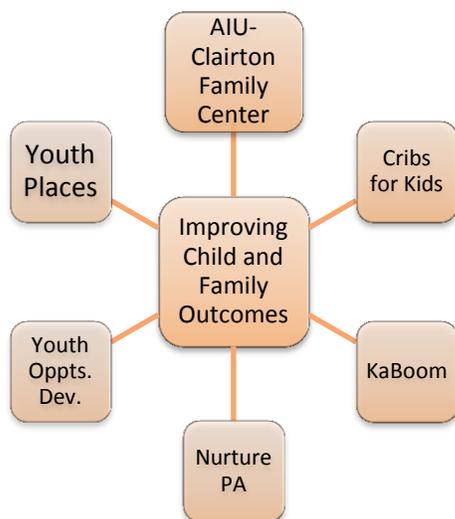
Afterschool and summer programs (out-of-school time) are essential to keep kids safe, engage children in enriching activities, and give peace of mind to moms and dads during the out-of-school hours.

- During Fiscal Year 2012-2013, \$62 million was distributed in Allegheny County in support of out-of-school time initiatives.
- 22% of total funding for out-of-school time programming came from local organizations, as well as philanthropic endowments, foundations, and corporations.
- 52,646 children (28%) in Allegheny County participate in an afterschool program, yet 94,764 children (70%) would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them.
- 36% of Allegheny County children in an afterschool program qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program.

- In Allegheny County, the top three providers of afterschool programs are afterschool programs run by a public school, Boys & Girls Club afterschool programs and YMCA afterschool programs.
- Since 2000 the number of available summer jobs for youth has decreased 55%. Summer employment opportunities are often a focus of summer programming.
- Out-of-school time programming can increase school attendance and provides a safe haven for children at a peak time for unsafe activities.

Strong partners including the United Way of Allegheny County, University of Pittsburgh’s Office of Child Development, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services are heavily involved with out-of-school time activities. Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School Time (APOST) is a program of the United Way of Allegheny County. This partnership of funders, intermediaries and providers is dedicated to building a quality system that will contribute to the healthy successful development of young people as they progress through their school years, graduate from high school and enter into adulthood. According to a quick review of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Afterschool Resource Collaboration (SPARC), the broader Jefferson area may have as many as 46 afterschool programs.

**Jefferson Regional Foundation Accomplishments: Grants and Beyond**



To date, the Foundation has awarded six grants in the “Improving Child and Family Outcomes” priority. In addition, for the Spring 2015 grant cycle, two new grant requests from Sisters Place, Inc. and the Three Rivers Mothers’ Milk Bank have been presented for consideration.

In addition to grant making, Foundation staff partnered with the Hospital’s Women and Infants Center to convene an information-sharing session just prior to the new Center’s Open House. Staff has also convened a group of youth providers in Clairton to discuss both afterschool and summer programming. The Foundation is serving as the catalyst for collaboration among the organizations

which include: Sisters Place, Inc., YouthPlaces, Youth Opportunities Development, Morningstar Baptist Church, Go Time Ministries, Gwen’s Girls, Clairton Family Center, Clairton Public Library, and the Clairton school district.

## **Future Opportunities and Discussion Points**

- 1) Opportunity exists for the Foundation to become involved in increasing the number of quality childcare centers in the Jefferson service area. There are high need areas, such as Clairton, with a high concentration of low-income children and few, if any, STARs childcare facilities.
- 2) Opportunity exists for the Foundation to partner with the family support centers, WIC offices and other providers located in the Jefferson area to promote parent engagement and strong child development.
- 3) Opportunity exists to address the smoking rate of pregnant women in the Jefferson area since the average rate is 22%, ranging from 7.5% to as high as 50%.
- 4) Opportunity exists to further understand and strengthen the afterschool and summer programming for Jefferson area youth through partnerships and collaboration of youth providers and through new programming, if appropriate.
- 5) Where and how can the Foundation make a difference for children in our area? How will the Foundation know it has made an impact?

## **Resources**

1. <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412559-Understanding-Trends-in-Poverty-in-the-Pittsburgh-Metropolitan-Area.pdf>
2. [http://www.achd.net/~communitymeeting/ACHD\\_Community\\_Meeting-District6.pdf](http://www.achd.net/~communitymeeting/ACHD_Community_Meeting-District6.pdf)
3. <http://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2014/03/02/More-Pennsylvania-students-qualifying-for-free-lunches/stories/201403020112>
4. <http://www.paeyc.org/>
5. <http://www.afterschoolpgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Funding-Inventory.compressed.pdf>
6. <http://wesa.fm/post/more-allegheny-county-kids-after-school-programs-service-gaps-still-exist>
7. <http://www.afterschoolpgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Allegheny-AA3PM-2014-Fact-Sheet1.pdf>
8. <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=22784>
9. [http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/PolicyGuide\\_CTS2008.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/PolicyGuide_CTS2008.pdf)