

## Strengthening Families

**Strengthening Families** is an initiative funded by the Hamilton County Family and Children's First Council with child abuse prevention funds received annually by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF). The **Strengthening Families Initiative** seeks to build five protective factors that ensure the wellness and resiliency of children ages 0-8 by increasing the capacity of parents to access resources, build supports and meet the needs of their children. This initiative is based upon the **Strengthening Families** framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy ([www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net)). **Strengthening Families** is being delivered in seven western communities of Hamilton County serving:

- » 40 early childhood programs
- » 1,694 children in 1,301 families and
- » 233 early childhood providers

GOALS	STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES
For early child care providers to become aware of the protective factors and develop skills and strategies for implementing these factors within early childhood programs thereby enhancing parental involvement and wellness of children.	Recruited early child care and education centers, preschool programs and family child care provider homes receive coaching, technical assistance and specialized training.	Over an 18 month period, early childhood professionals within these programs increased their use of parent engagement skills and activities by 24.8% and increased their confidence in the use of these skills areas by 16%.
For parents to access resources and develop social connections that support their resiliency and better ensure the wellness of their children.	Parent Cafés introduced and parents receive access to family resources, social networks and parenting knowledge.	Parent Cafés glean tremendous results as 97.5% of parents report plans to try new ways to parent and 86.7% report plans to change how they discipline or listen to their children.
For community members and stakeholders to increase their capacity to respond to families in need.	Community awareness campaign is launched; residents, civic and religious groups and parents are educated on the Strengthening Families five protective factors.	<b>Strengthening Families</b> expands into four more communities. Community awareness events and strategies delivered in Westwood, Cheviot, Millvale, Camp Washington, Fairmount and West Price Hill.

“As a new teacher, Strengthening Families helped me to gain knowledge on how to engage parents – especially parents who were difficult to connect with. I think that being able to better engage parents has greatly impacted children's school readiness as it has led to parents being more involved with their children's education.”

~ Alison Heyob, Preschool teacher Westwood



## Member Agencies

- » 4C for Children
- » Centerpoint Health
- » Central Clinic
- » Children, Inc.
- » The Children's Home of Cincinnati
- » Cincinnati Early Learning Centers, Inc.
- » Cincinnati Public Schools
- » NorthKey Community Care
- » Dr. Dorothy June Sciarra, Professor Emeritus

## How to Get Involved

The Consortium for Resilient Young Children would like to invite you to join us in this important work. Please utilize our website or Facebook page for updates on CRYC programs and valuable information and presentations related to our mission and vision. Ultimately, we invite you to promote the social and emotional needs of young children and the impact this has on their future and ours.

Please contact us if you would like more information on how to join a CRYC committee or on becoming a member.

Website: [www.resilientchildren.org](http://www.resilientchildren.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/resilientchildren](https://www.facebook.com/resilientchildren)

### Thanks to the Generosity of our Funders:

The Promoting Resilient Children Program is funded by United Way of Greater Cincinnati.  
The Strengthening Families initiative is made possible by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and Hamilton County Family and Children First Council.

The Resilient Children Project is funded by the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Social Innovation Fund.



the Consortium  
for resilient young children



2011 ANNUAL REPORT





## Who We Are

The **Consortium for Resilient Young Children** brings together the best of early childhood and mental health practices. The **Consortium** promotes best practices related to quality child care and access to children's mental health services.

The **Consortium's** mission is to promote the social and emotional development and well being of young children, strengthen the capacity of all adults who care for them, and advocate for coordinated, aligned systems.

The vision is that all children are socially and emotionally competent and resilient. Caring adults support, build, and advocate for young children's social and emotional well-being. Systems and communities serving young children and families are of high quality, aligned and coordinated.

## Our Achievements

- » Provided services to **72** early childhood programs, preschools and family child care homes in Hamilton County, Covington and Newport.
- » Served more than **2,900** young children in early childhood settings.
- » Were awarded more than **\$1.2 million** in grants to support children and families in the Greater Cincinnati region including a **Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Social Innovation Fund** grant.
- » Adopted a new strategic plan for 2011-2013 focused on three key strategic areas: **1) Parent Engagement and Partnerships; 2) Professional Development and 3) Systems Integration.**

- » Program staff offered **19** different workshops and training opportunities to hundreds of early childhood professionals.
- » **Strengthening Families:**
  - Expanded into four additional communities.
  - Received a project grant from the Early Childhood Initiative and the Ohio Children's Trust Fund to publish a white paper on its impact on kindergarten readiness. The paper was presented at the Strengthening Families National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.. For the full project report go to: [www.ctfalliance.org/ohio.htm](http://www.ctfalliance.org/ohio.htm)
  - Staff presented at the 4C for Children Leadership Conference, the OCCRR Institute, the **Strengthening Families** National Leadership Conference and the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference.
- » **Promoting Resilient Children:**
  - Offered individualized therapeutic services to more than **20** children and their families referred for assessment with the Clinical DECA Assessment tool.
  - Staff collaborated with Success by 6® to pilot the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) with programs involved in more than one community quality initiative in order to integrate goals across projects.
  - Developed and presented community training on Reducing Stress in the Classroom, Classroom Management Through Reflective Practice, and Kindergarten Readiness and Making the Transition to School to more than 200 teachers and administrators in Hamilton County.



## What We Do

Members of **CRYC** focus their attention on promoting higher quality child care, increasing parent awareness about their role in their child's life, and understanding the social and emotional needs of young children. Currently, the **Consortium** has three grant-funded projects that carry out the mission: The **Promoting Resilient Children program**, the **Strengthening Families Initiative** and the **Resilient Children Project**.

In addition to grant-funded projects, the **CRYC** uses its resources to focus community attention on the importance of social emotional development in young children through advocacy, consultation, and information sharing.

## Resilient Children Project

The **Resilient Children Project** is a collaborative project funded in February 2011 by the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Social Innovation Fund. The **Resilient Children Project** expands the scope of two existing early childhood mental health consultation projects: **Promoting Resilient Children** in Cincinnati, Ohio and the **Covington Resilience Project** in Covington, Kentucky to include Newport preschool age children and a larger number of children in the city of Cincinnati. The **Resilient Children Project** focuses on the need for expanded, direct, comprehensive services for young, at-risk children in need of interventions to help address social and emotional development. The project also addresses the need to increase the capacity of early care and education administrators and caregivers, so they can meet these needs within their classrooms and centers, decreasing the need for more intensive interventions outside these environments.

GOALS	STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES
To expand Early Childhood Mental Health Services in Cincinnati, Covington and Newport	Training and coaching to early childhood programs with an emphasis on social and emotional development and building resilience in young children.	Engaged 41 early childhood programs, including 9 new sites in Cincinnati and Newport serving 2,700 children ages 2 – 5 years.  Hired and trained new early childhood mental health consultants.
To increase level of evidence through rigorous evaluation	Extensive evaluation of the <b>Resilient Children Project's</b> impact on children, adult professionals and the culture of participating early childhood programs.	Contracted with University of Cincinnati's Evaluation Services Center.  Developed an extensive evaluation plan.  Began data collection at 41 early childhood programs.
To support the infrastructure of the Consortium for Resilient Young Children to engage the community and share best practices	Establish communication tools, sustainability plan and staffing for the Consortium.	Hired a Director for the Consortium.  Updated CRYC's website and Facebook pages.  Conducted CRYC strategic planning.

“ We are delighted to have the Consortium for Resilient Young Children as part of the inaugural portfolio of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Social Innovation Fund. We have been impressed by the true partnership of the Consortium. Not only have the partners come together to address a critical community need, but they do it in a way that embraces continuous learning and improvement. They challenge each other to achieve greater impact and sustainability.”

~ Mike Baker, Director, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Social Innovation Fund



## Promoting Resilient Children

The goal of **Promoting Resilient Children** is to increase the professional capacity of child care staff to enhance the social and emotional development of children. In addition, **PRC** provides mental health intervention to children ages birth to five. This program is a collaboration of mental health and early childhood specialists who provide services to early childhood centers through collaboration, coaching, and training to promote the social and emotional well-being of children before they enter kindergarten. Services are provided to:

- » **28 centers in Hamilton County and their staff and**
- » **1,250 children ages three months to five years**

The United Way of Greater Cincinnati initially provided funding in 2006. United Way has extended its support of the **PRC** project through 2012. Additional information: [www.resilientchildren.org](http://www.resilientchildren.org).

GOALS	STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES
To increase the professional capacity of child care staff to ensure the social and emotional development of pre-kindergarten children.  To provide resources to child care administrators in support of quality initiatives for organizational improvement.	Child care teachers and directors receive frequent and intensive coaching and training in sound early childhood practices with an emphasis on social and emotional development.	93% of teachers report that consultation increased their understanding of social-emotional development of children.  Teachers and directors from 28 child care centers received more than 750 consultations in the past year.  57 teachers, directors and coaches received training on the DECA assessment.  31 teachers and directors received training on accessing the eDECA, the data management system for the DECA
To increase the social and emotional skills of children ages 0-5 years.	Assessments, intervention, coaching, mental health consultation, Kindergarten transition services	73% of children ages 0-3 years demonstrated progress in social-emotional development  74 % of children ages 3-5 years demonstrated progress in social-emotional development  Kindergarten-aged children demonstrated significant improvement in their social-emotional skills during their tenure in PRC programs
To increase the community's and parents' awareness of social and emotional development	Educational materials available to the parents  Community education about social and emotional development	Will complete a three month Kindergarten Transition Calendar for parents to assist children in preparing for what to expect in kindergarten by early 2012

“ The teachers pay more attention to behavior, but in a different kind of way. They now look internally to what the behavior might be representing, and focus on understanding the meaning to support children socially and emotionally.”

~ Senta Wahl, Director, Cincinnati Early Learning Centers, Inc, Westwood Location