

Pennsylvania Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems: Health Integration Prenatal to Three Project

In August 2021, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded Pennsylvania approximately \$1.2 million to support the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three (ECCS) Program.

These funds will advance cross-sector collaborations and partnerships, health system improvements, state-level policy and fiscal innovation, equity, and family leadership to promote early developmental health and family well-being among prenatal to three-year-old (P-3) populations.

Pennsylvania's ECCS Project builds the Commonwealth's capacity and infrastructure to integrate and strengthen maternal and early childhood systems. The focus on the prenatal-to-age-3 period maximizes the opportunity to reach and support families during the earliest stages of parenting.



Pennsylvania's ECCS Project coordinates, implements, and sustains an equitable, comprehensive system that promotes early developmental health and family well-being to increase access to a robust health care system that can meet the complex needs of the P-3 population.

Many families experience significant adversity during the P-3 period, or experience significant challenges in providing the safe, nurturing, and engaging environments young children need to thrive. This contributes to widening disparities and inequities in childhood development, school readiness and achievement, and lifelong health. To ensure, efforts are equitable, it is important to engage, recruit and support families to inform Pennsylvania's P-3 services.



The ECCS Project recognizes that the importance of ensuring the maternal and early childhood system workforce who work with very young children and their families are knowledgeable and skilled in promoting social-emotional development and addressing relational health concerns.

ECCS works in collaboration with human services and health systems to continue to promote competency-based workforce development, cross-sector collaboration, and public awareness.

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ECCS Project Objectives



1. **State Level Early Childhood Leadership Capacity:** Increase the number of family and professional leaders engaged in state level maternal and early childhood initiatives.
2. **Coordination and Alignment between Maternal Child Health (MCH), Public Financing Partners, and other Statewide P-3 Systems and Programs:** Develop, strengthen, and implement a cross-sector-state-level maternal and early childhood strategic plan that integrates health with other P-3 systems and programs.
3. **Health System Capacity to Connect Families to Service Continuum:** Increase the participation of health providers (including obstetricians and pediatricians) in coordinated intake and referral systems, or strengthen data coordination efforts for P-3 population.
4. **Policy and Financing Changes:** Demonstrate progress towards critical policy and financing changes, as identified in state maternal and early childhood strategic plans.
5. **Health Equity and Systemic Drivers of Disparities:** Set specific and measurable P-3 health equity goals in the statewide early childhood plan.

How to Support ECCS

- Share questions or ideas by connecting with the ECCS Leads.
- Talk to programs and partners to build awareness.
- Help the ECCS Leads connect with families and programs interested in engaging in project activities.
- If you are a family member interested in engaging in project activities, contact the ECCS Leads.

Learn more at www.dhs.pa.gov



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