

Project LAUNCH Expansion Grant

(Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health)

Quick Facts:

Federal Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

4 Year Award:

September 30, 2015-September 29, 2019

Key Partnership for Implementation:

Catholic Family & Child Service – Yakima

New Pilot Communities:

- Benton-Franklin Counties
- Chelan-Douglas Counties
- North Thurston County

Project LAUNCH History:

The purpose of the original Project LAUNCH grant was to promote the wellness of young children ages birth to 8. It addressed the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive aspects of their development to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn and succeed. Washington was one of the first states in the country to be awarded a Federal SAMHSA grant to support Project LAUNCH. That was a 5 year grant (September 2008-September 2013).

For that grant, the Washington State Department of Health partnered with Yakima County to maximize opportunities and build on the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Thrive by Five Washington, Ready by Five in east Yakima, and Kids Matter. We worked to promote child wellness by creating an enhanced system of care for children who are at risk and live in poverty. We emphasized recent immigrant and Hispanic families in the Yakima area. This project aligned with state and local groups in the development of statewide universal developmental screening for all Washington children.

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Grant Purpose:

Project LAUNCH Expansion will build on the success of the original Project LAUNCH by expanding to three new communities: Benton-Franklin, Chelan-Douglas, and north Thurston County. These three communities were selected for 1) their readiness to partner with the original Project LAUNCH staff for systems improvement, 2) demographics and high risk subpopulations, and 3) a high proportion of military and veteran families. We will focus on early childhood settings that serve infants and toddlers of populations who are at high risk.

Goals:

- Increase developmental and behavioral screening for young children
- Integrate behavioral health training and services into early child care and education systems
- Improve family strengthening and local parent support opportunities
- Enhance local services to at least 100 providers and 1,500 children/families over the course of the grant

Partners:

- Behavioral Health Resources
- Catholic Community Services
- Catholic Family & Child Service (CFCS) - Yakima
- Child Care Aware
- Department of Early Learning, Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Grant
- Family Alliance for Mental Health
- Family Support Organizations
- Local Health Jurisdictions
- Parent to Parent
- PAVE (Partnerships for Action. Voices for Empowerment)
- Thrive Washington
- University of Washington Leadership in Education for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program
- Visions for Early Learning
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA)
- Washington State Association for Infant Mental Health
- WithinReach



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