

Pennsylvania Parent Pathways Initiative

Pre-Request for Application (RFA) Webinar

Thursday, December 19, 2019
2:00 PM EST

Introductions

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- Governor Wolf signed the FY 19-20 budget, which includes **\$2.5M in state funding for Parent Pathways**, led by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Education (PDE).
- Parent Pathways seeks to **establish community-specific comprehensive models to support access to, and success in, post-secondary education and training for single parents.**
- Specifically, the departments propose to invest in holistic models that **address the needs of parents and children together** and successfully **leverage partnerships to offer sustainable solutions** to the multiple barriers often facing families experiencing economic challenges.

- Removing barriers to education empowers parents to obtain the skills needed for family-sustaining careers.
- Single parents, in particular, face significant challenges around finances, housing, and child care that prevent them from accessing and successfully completing programs that could lift their family out of poverty, and find fulfillment in a meaningful career.

Component 1: Post-secondary education and training

Parents will be supported in participating in post-secondary options:

- community colleges,
- four-year colleges and universities,
- career and technical schools,
- apprenticeships, or
- other programs for career skill development

Component 2: Two generational family supports

A holistic, family approach will address the social and education needs of both parent and children.

- The development of children and parents is inextricably linked; parents gain motivation to succeed from their children, and vice versa.
- Children who are encouraged and supported through high-quality early care and education demonstrate significant progress in acquiring early learning skills.
- These children are also more likely to graduate from high school, to attend postsecondary education and quality job training programs, and be valuable members of the workforce.

Component 3: Housing supports

Housing and housing support will address one of the major barriers faced by families in poverty and create a stable environment.

- A stable living arrangement is vital to healthy child development and to the success of parents at both school and work.
- According to the American Community Survey, nearly 60 percent of Pennsylvania children under the age of five live in economically at-risk families.
- Families with low incomes are 50 percent more likely to have moved in the past year and nearly three times as likely to rent, rather than own a home.

- Secretary Teresa Miller, Secretary Pedro Rivera, State Senator Lisa Baker, and Governor Wolf 2018 visits to Misericordia University's Women with Children Program.
- Joint DHS/PDE Request for Information (RFI) in late 2018.
- Misericordia and Family Scholar House site visits.
- Parent Pathways Summit held in Spring 2018.
- General Assembly passes and Governor Wolf signs FY 19-20 budget, which includes \$2.5M for Parent Pathways.
- Stakeholder visits, survey, and program development in Summer-Fall 2019.
- DHS and PDE develops Request for Application (RFA) in Fall 2019.

Survey for stakeholders – September 2019

- As part of the RFA development process, the departments issued a survey to receive input on the initiative and explore options for distributing the \$2.5M implementation funding.
- Selected Parent Pathways models will be awarded in two phases – first, for technical assistance for model planning and development and secondly, implementation funding.
- For Parent Pathways models to be successful, the awards should allow flexibility for communities to best meet the needs of potential participants in these programs.

Who we heard from?

Over 100 responses from across PA, including:

- Community based organizations
- Community colleges
- Technical schools
- Four-year colleges and universities
- Community action agencies
- Early learning resource centers
- Workforce development boards
- Philanthropic organizations
- Payers
- School districts
- Intermediate Units
- County agencies
- Housing agencies

Stakeholder Survey Results



Q: List the three most significant funding needs you anticipate for your organization and partners to develop and implement a Parent Pathways model in your community.

Out of more than 100 responses, these were mentioned the most as the top 1, 2, or 3 needs for funding:

Training/Education	42	
Staffing	40	
Child Care	39	
Housing	37	
Transportation	20	

Stakeholder Survey Results



Q: Please list three areas of technical assistance (TA) that would be most beneficial as you plan and develop your Parent Pathways model.

Examples of TA may include access to subject matter experts, discussions with successful, similar models from Pennsylvania or other states, facilitated community forums, connections to philanthropic organizations, or assistance in the development of an implementation plan.

Out of more than 100 responses, these were mentioned the most as the top 1, 2, or 3 needs for technical assistance:

Connections to current models	44
Community connections/facilitated meetings	42
Funding and philanthropic connections	40
Plan development	31
SMEs	13
Housing	8

Next Steps



- Request for Application (RFA) release forthcoming, will select up to seven proposed models.
- DHS will issue a press release and stakeholder message upon issuance of RFA on eMarketplace
- <http://www.emarketplace.state.pa.us/>