



Invitation to Apply to the Pediatric Capacity Building Institute (Year 3)

Audience:

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services is excited to announce the Third Annual Pediatric Capacity Building Institute (PCBI). PCBI is geared toward professionals across child-serving systems that are interested in learning more about how to support young people with complex needs and their families in PA and in initiating system change.

Purpose:

The PCBI offers a unique, in person, multi-disciplinary, interactive learning opportunity over 18 sessions in 8 months across the entire service partnership. The Institute's overall goal is to increase the administrative and clinical capacity across all systems to better support these youth and their families. The PCBI curriculum will accomplish this by promoting and strengthening:

- clinical knowledge and understanding among participants from local, regional, and state government,
- clinical expertise of providers – specific to individuals with both mental/behavioral health and developmental disabilities,
- engagement of those with lived experience,
- local, regional, and state understanding of complex needs planning, (organizing/facilitating/philosophy of approach),
- each system's understanding of other system's available resources, processes, setting/service types, rules, and funding, and
- networking across systems and regions.

The Institute will also encourage participants to explore ways to improve and change their local systems of support for children and their families. Individuals who have completed prior institutes have used this new knowledge to strengthen existing programs and create fresh approaches that achieve the best results.

PCBI will approach these objectives from an individual and systemic perspective through training, integration of knowledge into practice, and opportunities to build a statewide cohort to work together to effect change and build capacity.



Discussion:

PCBI participants will hear from a variety of seasoned and successful speakers and practitioners who are implementing practical approaches to complex situations. The format of all sessions is designed to be highly interactive.

PCBI also strives to incorporate the lived experience of these children and families to ensure that supports and services offered are meeting the needs of families across PA. Finally, PCBI participants will join a growing network of individuals who are exploring fresh pathways to supporting children and families who are attempting to manage highly complicated situations.

The curriculum includes topics such as:

- Infant Mental Health & Child Development
- Trauma / Vicarious Trauma
- Resiliency
- Cross System Knowledge & Multisystem Planning
- Change Management
- Education in Non-educational Settings / Early Intervention
- Psychiatric Diagnosis / Psychopharmacology
- Communication / Sensory Needs
- Diversity and Culturally Competent Support
- Therapies / Services / Programming / Evaluation / Assessment
- Understanding the Child and Family – Biopsychosocial Approach
- Relational Health and Permanency

Session Information, Requirements, and Confirming Attendance:

PCBI will accept 50 participants for the Year 3 Cohort. As such, each interested person must submit an interest survey by January 29, 2026. Participants will be notified of their selection status by February 5, 2026.

PCBI will meet once a month for eight months between March 2026 and October 2026, with one backup session reserved in December 2026. Each month, there are consecutive two-day sessions, in person, in Harrisburg. The specific dates, times, and location are provided below.

Participants who are selected are required to register and submit a registration fee. The registration fee for the Pediatric Capacity Building Institute will be approximately \$700 to \$900 (we are waiting for an initial estimate), which must be paid prior to the first session in March. This registration fee covers light refreshments in the mornings and afternoons, and a lunch each day. Dinner will be on your own.



Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

2026 Session Dates:

- 3/18 – 3/19
- 4/15 – 4/16
- 5/20 – 5/21
- 6/10 – 6/11
- 7/8 – 7/9
- 8/12 – 8/13
- 9/9 – 9/10
- 10/7 – 10/8
- 10/28 – 10/29
- 12/9 – 12/10 – Back up

Daily Schedule:

- Session Day 1 – 10:00 am to 4:30 pm
- Session Day 2 – 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Location:

Weather permitting, all sessions are held in person at the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) at 6340 Flank Drive Harrisburg, PA 17112. In the event of inclement weather affecting a session, a virtual option will be made available.

Hotel Reservations

Participants can reserve a room using the list of local hotels found on PaTTAN's website here: [PaTTAN - PaTTAN - CENTRAL](#). No group rate is available.

Requirements:

The Pediatric Capacity Building Institute emphasizes the participation and collaboration of all participants. Structured group work participation and 100% attendance are required. Only the confirmed participant can attend PCBI; no substitutions are permitted after confirming attendance.

Interest Survey:

To be considered for participation in Year 3 PCBI, please complete and submit this [Interest Survey](#) by January 29, 2026. Participants will be notified of their status by February 5, 2026 via email.

Please email ra-secretaryoffice@pa.gov if you have any questions.