Institute for Families
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Sara T. Munson, MSW
Executive Director
55 Commercial Ave
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
office: 848-932-0517
smunson@ssw.rutgers.edu

http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/iff

Current Funded Projects (2015-2016)
- Adoption Training Certificate
- CGS Family Partnership Asset Study
- DCF Community Engagement - Superstorm Sandy
- DCF Data Portal Website
- DCF Local Office Manager Professional Development
- DCF Prevention Standards Training & Evaluation
- Family Development Credential Program
- Family Success Center Implementation Program
- GROW NJ KIDS Training Project
- National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI)
- National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)
- Newark Improving Outcomes/Protective Factors Evaluation
- NJ CARES
- NJ Child Support Institute (NJCSI)
- NJ Child Welfare Training Partnership (NJCWTP)
- NJ Coordination Center on Child Abuse & Neglect Forensic Evaluation
- NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Price Family Foundation: New Brunswick Fellows
- Project MYSELF
- Quality Improvement Center on Adoption & Guardianship—NJ Evaluation
- Ryan White Planning
- Ryan White Quality
- Summer Housing Internship Program (SHIP)
- Summer Internship Program (SIP)
- Superstorm Sandy Child & Family Health Study
- Superstorm Sandy Child Study
- Victim Assistance Academy
- Youth Advisory Boards & Youth Advisory Council
- YouthThrive & Casey Life Skills Training

With 8 offices throughout the State, IFF includes more than 80 faculty and staff, and a cadre of hundreds of subject-matter experts representing an array of human services fields and related disciplines. IFF exemplifies the land-grant mission of Rutgers University by providing training and professional development programs, program evaluation, applied research, direct service, and capacity-building to the human services community in New Jersey and beyond.

The University setting provides a unique environment that brings together academic, professional, and technical experts for the public good.
Mission
The mission of the Institute for Families (IFF), at the Rutgers School of Social Work, is to support and strengthen individuals, families, and communities by building the capacity of human service professionals and organizations.

History
IFF was created in July 2007 to coordinate an applied social science agenda to address the challenges that vulnerable families may face at certain times, such as poverty, child abuse and neglect, mental illness, school failure and truancy, teenage pregnancy, delinquency, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS. IFF also focuses on issues that at one time or another will confront nearly all families, such as caring for aging family members, providing safe and nurturing homes for children, financial difficulties, and community building.

Funding & Partnerships
With an annual budget of more than $17M, IFF’s largest programs include the NJ Child Support Institute, NJ Child Welfare Training Partnership, Superstorm Sandy Child & Family Health Study, GROW NJ KIDS Training Project, NJ Coordination Center for Child Abuse & Neglect Forensic Evaluation, and Transitions for Youth. Recent partners include the NJ Department of Children and Families, NJ Department of Human Services, NJ Department of Education, NJ Division of Criminal Justice, US Children’s Bureau, NJ Department of Health & Senior Services, NJ County Human Services/Social Service Boards, United Way, NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Paterson Housing Authority. IFF also collaborates with other Rutgers departments, other colleges and universities, and national organizations, such as the National Child Support Enforcement Association and Foster Youth in Action.

Divisions
IFF contains 4 Offices that create, implement, and advance programs and projects reflecting the Institute’s mission:

The Office of Child Welfare Workforce Advancement houses our suite of training, consultation and professional development programs for child-serving professionals. The office administers the NJ Child Welfare Training Partnership for the child protection and permanency workforce, GROW NJ KIDS Training Project for the early childcare and preschool workforce, and the Adoption Certificate Program, as well as a variety of other tailored capacity-building projects in child welfare, in New Jersey and nationwide.

The Office of Youth Empowerment houses our youth advocacy, college enrichment, training, and mentoring programs. These positive youth development projects are supported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, the Price Family Foundation, and various private donors, and focus on the effective support, guidance and engagement of more than 500 youth who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness. The Office also leads our Campus Champions Advisory Board to raise visibility and enhance university support for former foster youth.

The Office of Human Services Training and Educational Programs provides customized training and professional development across the human service spectrum, including child support, welfare, family worker, probation and the courts. Workforce development activities focus on the latest trends and methodologies in blended learning/use of technology, coaching and outreach, in conjunction with faculty and other subject matter expertise, as well as administration and leadership on local and national conferences.

The Office of Research and Evaluation provides high quality applied social science research and evaluation services to support comprehensive capacity-building in the human services. Projects are designed to inform and enhance the programs and activities of a range of organizations, through needs assessment, data analysis, logic model development, strategic planning, quality measurement and performance monitoring. The Office also supports the ongoing evaluation of IFF’s direct service, training and professional development programs.