

Standards for New Jersey Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Programs: Needs Assessment and Training Project

Self-Assessment of Programs

Between November 2015 and February 2016, program directors and managers from 172 of the 235 (73%) primary and secondary prevention programs funded by the Division of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP), New Jersey Department of Children and Families, responded to a survey to assess their program in relation to the New Jersey Standards for Child Abuse Prevention Programs. The survey engaged program leaders in conducting an assessment of their programs and identified areas for improvement, and identified opportunities for training to support program leaders in achieving their goals.



In-Person Training for Parents and Professionals

Eleven full-day, in-person trainings were provided in 2016 to supplement the web-based training available through Prevent Child Abuse--New Jersey. The trainings encouraged program providers to use their scores on the self-assessment to identify key areas of improvement and explore action steps in the training. A total of 542 participants were trained. In attendance were 104 parent leaders or volunteers, 120 managers or directors, and 318 staff members.



Resources for Parents and Professionals

A handbook entitled *20 Ways Your Community Programs Build Strong, Healthy and Nurturing Families: A Handbook for Parents and Caregivers* was developed to provide parents with the information they need to choose a quality community program. An accompanying web-based training was also developed in English and in Spanish. Program providers were encouraged to use these tools to facilitate discussions with families about the quality of their services. A feedback sheet was developed in English and Spanish to accompany this process.



Two webinars were developed that presented findings for the self-assessment and provided concrete steps for program providers seeking to improve their scores on the self-assessment in the areas of *Administrative Standards 7: Measuring Outcomes and Conducting Evaluations* and *Practice with Communities 1: Participatory Development Planning*.