



## Boone County Project LAUNCH

Cohort 3, Funding Period 2010–2015

[www.isyourchildhappy.org](http://www.isyourchildhappy.org)

### Grantee Overview

[Boone County Project LAUNCH](#) serves children from birth to age eight and their families in one urban area (Columbia) and five resource-constrained rural towns (Centralia, Sturgeon, Ashland, Harrisburg, and Hallsville) in Boone County, Missouri. The poverty rate has increased over the years in Boone County, and rural towns have been particularly impacted, where resources such as mental health providers and transportation to health clinics are limited. Boone County Project LAUNCH strives to promote and increase young childhood wellness through community collaboration, education, training, and awareness.

### Project Milestones

All [Project LAUNCH](#) grantees implement five core promotion and prevention strategies intended to increase access to high-quality prevention and wellness promotion services for children and their families. In Boone County Project LAUNCH, these five strategies are implemented through the following activities:

- **Screening and Assessment:** In efforts to expand developmental and social–emotional screening in primary and early care settings, Boone County Project LAUNCH has provided nearly 1,000 physicians, nurses, psychologists, and child care providers with training, coaching, and referral support on the [Ages & Stages Questionnaire®, Third Edition \(ASQ-3™\)](#) and [Ages & Stages Questionnaire®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition \(ASQ:SE-2™\)](#). Additionally, Boone County Project LAUNCH has coordinated screening clinics at the local library and the Women, Infants, and Children office as well as during parent support group meetings. These efforts were designed to reach families that may not have easy access to developmental screening services.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Boone County Project LAUNCH is committed to improving early care and education in rural and urban areas. It provides the [Early Childhood-Positive Behavior Support \(EC-PBS\)](#) program to help early childhood professionals create classrooms that recognize and nurture children’s social and emotional development. Through EC-PBS, consultants with mental health expertise have trained and coached child care providers in preventing, identifying, and reducing the impact of children’s behavioral health challenges. Boone County has made special efforts to recruit child care providers from rural towns and is currently working to fully implement EC-PBS at 12 early childhood sites.

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*“This screening was a huge help to me. I not only got to see how my baby is doing, but [it] made me feel better as a parent.”*

–Parent at community screening clinic

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- **Enhanced Home Visiting:** Boone County Project LAUNCH continues to enhance and expand [Parents as Teachers® \(PAT\)](#), a home visiting program that provides parents with information and services to help them support their children’s early childhood development. For example, Boone County Project LAUNCH expanded PAT in Centralia by collecting data on risk factors, routinely conducting maternal depression screenings, and implementing [reflective supervision](#). Through these efforts, more families have enrolled in PAT, waitlists for home visitation services have been eliminated, and home visitors have had access to reflective supervision. The local school district in Centralia is committed to sustaining PAT for parents and their children.
- **Integrating Behavioral Health Into Primary Care:** To inform primary care staff about behavioral health services in primary care settings, Boone County Project LAUNCH organized a 2-day training at South Providence General Pediatrics. The training focused on behavioral health screening, services, and treatment, including postpartum depression. After the training, 44 clinic staff reported feeling fairly confident in their ability to improve behavioral health practices in primary care. Boone County Project LAUNCH successfully supported South Providence General Pediatrics in securing a grant to implement the [Healthy Steps for Young Children<sup>SM</sup>](#) program for 2015. In bringing behavioral health into primary care, Boone County Project LAUNCH has also implemented ASQ:SE-2™ and tablet-based screenings in South Providence General Pediatrics and Family Health Center (the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Boone County).
- **Family Strengthening:** Boone County Project LAUNCH has implemented [Incredible Years®](#) to provide parents of children from ages two to eight with parenting education and support on their children’s academic, social, and emotional development. Through Incredible Years®, more than 30 parents who completed the parenting series have reported that they experience less parenting stress and have gained positive and effective parenting skills. Additionally, in partnership with the [Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services](#), Boone County Project LAUNCH is training six local agencies in facilitating [Parent Cafés](#), which are structured support groups for parents to share concerns and issues important to them. Each local agency is committed to conducting at least two parent café series with Boone County parents.

### *Systems Integration*

Project LAUNCH is intended to improve coordination and collaboration across systems that serve young children and their families. Boone County Project LAUNCH works to improve the early childhood infrastructure through workforce development and public awareness. For example, Boone County Project LAUNCH provides trainings to pediatric and early childhood sites on Incredible Years®, the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ-3™ and ASQ:SE-2™), and other evidence-based practices. To promote early childhood wellness, Boone County Project LAUNCH regularly updates its website with resources and continues to participate in community health events and fairs. The Young Child Wellness Council of Boone County Project LAUNCH has been a leader in raising awareness in the community about the importance of early childhood wellness.

### ***Grantee Events and Materials***

Click on the following links to access information about grantee-developed resources:

- [Ages & Stages Questionnaires® \(ASQ-3™ and ASQ:SE-2™\) Referral Decision Tool](#): Provides referral and follow-up options based on scores from ASQ-3™ and ASQ:SE-2™ screenings.
- [“A Transformative Approach to Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support in a Rural County” Poster](#): Boone County Project LAUNCH presented this poster on its implementation of EC-PBS at the [National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health Georgetown Training Institute](#).
- [Children’s Mental Health Week](#): In support of Children’s Mental Health Week, Boone County Project LAUNCH helped organize picnics in Centralia and Sturgeon and a family run/walk in Columbia for more than 900 community members. Additionally, Boone County Project LAUNCH hosted information booths at the [Hello, Baby! Expo](#) and the Boone County Wellness Fair.
- [Early Childhood-Positive Behavior Support \(EC-PBS\) in Boone County](#): A handout on what EC-PBS is and how it benefits early childhood sites.
- [“Strengths-Based Screening in Naturalistic Settings” Poster](#): Boone County Project LAUNCH presented this poster on developmental screening at the [National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health Georgetown Training Institute](#).

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