



Indiana Project LAUNCH

Cohort 4, Funding Period 2012–2017

<http://www.onecommunityonefamily.org/projectLaunch.asp>

Grantee Overview

Indiana Project LAUNCH promotes the wellness of young children ages birth to eight by improving child- and family-serving agencies and reducing behavioral health disparities among families living in poverty, families who are uninsured, and families of Latino/Hispanic heritage, particularly those who are non-English speaking. Indiana Project LAUNCH is piloted in an eight-county, largely rural region in Southeastern Indiana through the lead agency, [One Community One Family](#), in partnership with numerous local organizations, stakeholders, and parents. Their efforts are supported by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

Project Milestones

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

- **Screening and Assessment:** Indiana Project LAUNCH is committed to providing training opportunities for primary care staff and early childhood providers to improve their engagement skills with children and families and to enhance their knowledge about screenings and appropriate referral sources. Through Indiana Project LAUNCH, Cincinnati Children’s Healthcare in Batesville and Greensburg has implemented the [Safe Environment for Every Kid \(SEEK\) Parent Screen Questionnaire](#), a screening tool that looks at a patient’s home environment and potential trauma within the family unit, such as parental depression and domestic violence. Indiana Project LAUNCH also works with Cincinnati Children’s Healthcare to inform primary care staff about referral sources and additional resources for families. In addition, partner agencies of Indiana Project LAUNCH, such as child care organizations, have used the [Ages & Stages Questionnaire®, Third Edition \(ASQ-3™\)](#) and [Ages & Stages Questionnaire®: Social-Emotional, Second Edition \(ASQ:SE-2™\)](#) for development screening in young children.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Working with [Southeastern Indiana Economic Opportunity Corporation \(SIEOC\) Head Start](#) and [Ohio Valley Opportunity \(OVO\) Head Start](#), Indiana Project LAUNCH developed a plan to implement the evidence-based model for social-emotional learning, discipline, and self-regulation called [Conscious Discipline](#), specifically focusing within classrooms and home visits in order to expand mental health consultation. In this effort, all Head Start staff receive skills training and classroom coaching to impact positive classroom behavior. Additionally, through Indiana Project LAUNCH in partnership with a [Community Mental Health Center \(CMHC\)](#), a therapist with endorsement from the [Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health](#) provides consultation, information, and

resources to staff on children’s mental health. Mental health consultation also has expanded to support [Incredible Years](#) staff, [Healthy Families Indiana](#) staff, and both OVO and SIEOC Head Start home visitors. Indiana Project LAUNCH hosted a local and state-wide training for clinicians, mental health consultants, and stake holders to provide in-depth information on mental health consultation and an opportunity for training participants to enhance their understanding of how to better serve children in the Indiana Project LAUNCH population.

- **Enhanced Home Visiting:** Indiana Project LAUNCH works to strengthen home visiting services provided to families by implementing trainings to support home visiting and home coaching staff. For example, it uses [Motivational Interviewing](#), [Mental Health First Aid](#), and trauma-informed approaches to train home visiting staff from various agencies, including [Head Start](#), [First Steps](#), and CMHC. These trainings are implemented to increase home visitors’ knowledge of toddler and family social-emotional and developmental needs and to assist home visitors in implementing practices that increase family engagement. In turn, home visitors are able to support parents to manage their stress and increase their parenting skills. Through the partnership between Indiana Project LAUNCH and [Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting](#) (MIECHV), the MIECHV-funded Healthy Families Indiana staff received mental health consultation through the training that One Community One Family hosted in January 2016. This partnership continues to enhance and support the implementation of home visiting at the local level.
- **Integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care:** In efforts to integrate behavioral health into primary care, Indiana Project LAUNCH builds relationships with primary care providers and implements trainings to enhance the primary care screening and referral processes. Through Indiana Project LAUNCH, a local pediatrician has joined the Local Young Child Wellness Council to contribute to and shape project priorities. Additionally, CMHC and Cincinnati Children’s Healthcare in Batesville have co-located a mental health therapist within their primary care practices to provide treatment to patients and consultation to staff. Indiana Project LAUNCH has partnered with Area Health Education Center to increase health career students’ awareness and understanding of behavioral health, presenting information on careers in mental health and the importance of mental health in primary care. Indiana Project LAUNCH’s work in integrating behavioral health into primary care includes providing information and resources on healthy social-emotional development and young child wellness visits to the Ripley County Health Department, especially staff working with young parents of newborns.
- **Family Strengthening:** Indiana Project LAUNCH worked to implement [Incredible Years Parent Group](#) and [Home Coaching](#) sessions for parents of children ages birth to five in Southeastern Indiana. Through Indiana Project LAUNCH, various community providers received training on

“A wife of a member of the military participated in Incredible Years and was very excited about the opportunity to not only learn, but to also build a support system. Since that time, that same wife and mother has shared her experience during the annual Mental Health Awareness Day luncheon in Batesville and attended the state Systems of Care Conference. Most recently she participated in the Parent Café training provided by Be Strong Families and is now assisting in facilitating Parent Cafés locally. She is excited about her ongoing involvement and feels it has helped not only her personally, but also her family.”

facilitating sessions of the Incredible Years Parent Group and Home Coaching models. In recruiting families for the Incredible Years sessions, Indiana Project LAUNCH presented to families at Youth Worker Cafés, Department of Child Services meetings, clearinghouse events, and local county fairs about the Incredible Years programming for parents and caregivers. Parent groups and home coaching sessions were two to three hours long and occurred weekly, ranging from 12 to 20 weeks. Additional efforts to support family strengthening included launching Parent Cafés for families in the pilot community. Healthy Families Indiana partner organizations are continuing to work together to recruit parents for the ongoing Parent Cafés.

Systems Integration

Project LAUNCH is intended to improve coordination and collaboration across systems that serve young children and their families. In efforts to develop the workforce, Indiana Project LAUNCH provides trainings on various early childhood topics, such as trauma-informed approaches and mental health, to key stakeholders and community members. In 2014, Indiana Project LAUNCH hosted the endorsement training of the Indiana Association of Infant and Toddler Mental Health in Ripley County for 13 attendees and provided the *Ouch!: That Stereotype Hurts* training in Lawrenceburg and Batesville for 13 participants. In addition, One Community One Family led the planning and implementation of the 14th Annual Indiana Systems of Care Conference, including organizing workshops and plenary sessions related to early childhood development for more than 500 attendees.

Indiana Project LAUNCH has also engaged in public awareness events and activities throughout Southeastern Indiana. To promote young child social-emotional wellness, Indiana Project LAUNCH presented and distributed information to the following: Jefferson County Clearinghouse, the Youth Worker Café in four locations, the Stayin' Alive: Franklin County Drug Free Coalition Celebration, the annual Family Fun Day of Franklin County, four county fair baby shows, two National Night Out events, and the Batesville Kids Healthy and Safety Fair. Indiana Project LAUNCH also hosted a celebration in recognition of Children's Mental Health Awareness Month, which was attended by more than 50 key stakeholders and community members. These efforts expanded to coordinating a book project where 13 primary schools, child care centers, and Head Start/preschools each received a book to read to its students about expressing feelings. With Indiana Project LAUNCH's role in the local and state capacity, there has been increased collaboration and communication among mental health and other child-serving agencies at both the local and state levels, essentially opening doors for conversations and partnerships around early childhood mental health and well-being.

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