

NJ STATEWIDE PREVENTION PLAN

2022 - 2025

priorities & strategies



New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Cross-Cutting Priority



1: Promote racial equity/racial justice and reduce disparities across populations in service access, service provision, and retention.

Goal: Ensure that every family, regardless of race, has the same opportunities and access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention services.

Strategy 1.1: Incorporate race equity plans with metrics to measure the impact of the plan as it relates to prevention policies, programs, and initiatives.

Strategy 1.2: Identify new and emerging populations in need of services through review of available data and outreach to communities to capture diverse community and family voice, including individuals with lived experience.

Cross-Cutting Priority



2: Increase opportunities for effective youth and family participation and partnership in policy and program planning, implementation, continuous quality improvement (CQI), evaluation, and outcomes.

Goal: Enhance the fit between family needs and the availability of relevant services.

Strategy 2.1: Incentivize agencies/programs that demonstrate meaningful family and youth participation in decision making. *[Meaningful participation means that stakeholders and representatives of the community(s) to whom the service are directed have a role in co-planning with access to data and resources to make informed decisions, have decision-making authority, participate in analysis of data and program outcome efforts. Based on lawinsider.com definition]*

Strategy 2.2: Assure opportunities for diverse persons including those with lived experience (e.g. persons or families who have sought support) to partner, collaborate, and provide insight into programs and policies related to prevention services.

Strategy 2.3: Develop capacity building and reimbursement/payment mechanisms for diverse persons with lived experience who are asked to participate as partners in program development, implementation, and evaluation.

Strategy 2.4: Support Department of Children and Families Powerful Families/ Powerful Communities Initiative in the delivery of child welfare prevention services.

Action Step 2.4.1: Explore new ways to engage with the community especially for parents or caregivers not involved with child welfare.



3: Promote developmentally-based trauma-Informed and healing-centered prevention practices.

Goal: Establish trauma-informed communities with trauma-responsive programs and services across the state.

Strategy 3.1: Support the NJ ACEs Plan and integrate the plan's Key Strategies in the development and continued provision of prevention programming.

Strategy 3.2: Work with system partners including family voice to develop key health promotion and primary prevention messages to shift social norms about accessing family and community supports and services.



Priority

4: Partner and collaborate with key stakeholders across systems to ensure access to a full continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services for universal, select, and indicated populations with an emphasis on non-stigmatizing strategies within a risk and protective factors framework.

Goal: Create community-driven systems of policies, programs, and services targeted at New Jerseyans across the lifespan - from expectant parents, infancy, youth, young adults, and adults.

Strategy 4.1: Strengthen families through a focus on individual, family, and community-level protective factors.

Primary Prevention Activities: Through programs including but not limited to Family Success Centers, School-Linked Services, NJ Child Assault Prevention, and Universal Home Visiting Programs, support and enhance programs that improve parental resilience, positive parenting, social connections, concrete supports, and social/emotional competence.

Secondary Prevention Activities: In partnership with key systems, develop and/or enhance a defined array of services for parents and families in distress with an emphasis on access to health/behavioral health care, permanent, stable housing, recovery housing, education and employment, peer support, transportation and financial security.

Tertiary Prevention Activities: Provide preservation and reunification services for families engaged in child welfare protective services.

Identify specific populations for targeted interventions such as families with an incarcerated parent, families with children with special needs, teen pregnancy, LGTBO, and other marginalized populations.

Priority

Strategy 4.2: Collaborate with DHS to promote community-driven, evidence-based behavioral health prevention and wellness programs to delay onset of first drug/alcohol use in teenagers and reduce consequences of substance use for adults.

Strategy 4.3: Collaborate with DOH to increase access to health/behavioral health care including dental care to families engaged in child welfare prevention programs including but not limited to Family Success Center, Kinship Navigator Programs, Home Visiting Programs.

Strategy 4.4: Increase non-stigmatizing initiatives and programs through collaboration with pediatric, family practice and obstetrical entities, schools, faith communities, Justice System, Juvenile Justice System, and other associations.

Strategy 4.5: Collaborate with other state agencies and systems to ensure concrete supports including financial assistance.

Strategy 4.6: Support and contribute to Nurture NJ, The First Lady of New Jersey's initiative, which aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and ensure equity in care and in outcomes for mothers and infants of all ethnic groups.

Strategy 4.7: Support and contribute to Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) Pritzker Plan Implementation, "Unlocking Potential" which aims to increase support for New Jersey's families with infants and toddlers.

Strategy 4.8: Enhance the ability of central intakes and other screening and/or referral systems to assess family needs and expeditiously connect families with appropriate services.

Strategy 4.9: Advocate for expansion of dedicated child abuse prevention funds. Increase awareness and availability of NJ Children's Trust Fund.

Strategy 4.10: Launch a statewide public awareness campaign to increase NJ Children's Trust Fund revenues for dedicated prevention initiatives.

Action Step 4.10.1: Develop a multi-year financial plan that includes goals for strategic growth

Action Step 4.10.2: Make recommendations regarding appropriate use of NJ Children's Trust Fund

Action Step 4.10.3: Collect data to determine the impact of the use of Children's Trust Fund monies

Priority



5: Enhance data infrastructure and appropriate data sharing for decision-making.

Goal: Increase the use of data within the child welfare prevention system of services to make informed decisions about planning and investment.

Strategy 5.1: Highlight use of data for birth to age 3 and preschool and early childhood.

Strategy 5.2: Develop a prevention monitoring and surveillance system to identify trends and emerging issues affecting child and family well-being.

Strategy 5.3: Increase the number of community-led, inclusive, culturally appropriate policies, practices, strategies, and programs utilized in the child welfare prevention/intervention system with strong evaluation practices and meaningful outcomes.

Strategy 5.4: Enhance data collection systems that enable programs to report and utilize data for continuous quality improvement efforts.

Strategy 5.5: Increase funding support and technical assistance for community involvement, research, and evaluation to ensure outcomes are met.



Priority

6: Ensure a highly qualified workforce with ties to the local community to provide inclusive, culturally and linguistically sensitive evidence-based prevention services.

Goal: A highly effective workforce for prevention services in child welfare.

Strategy 6.1: Develop a coordinated approach to identifying core competencies and building child welfare prevention skills and knowledge base.

Action Step 6.1.1: Review and revise as needed the New Jersey Standards for Prevention Programs (program level standards)

Action Step 6.1.2: Identify key knowledge domains and content areas as a basis to develop a curriculum for prevention specialists in child welfare (individual level practitioner standards)

Strategy 6.2: Partner with higher education and other experts in the field to offer opportunities to connect curricula to relevant child welfare prevention service delivery.

Action Step 6.2.1: Begin with the Prevention Committee's syllabus and recommendations for higher education developed in 2015.

Strategy 6.3: Develop strategies to build and diversify the family support workforce (including but not limited to home visitors, family success workers, parent educators, mental health providers, doulas and community health workers).

Action Step 6.3.1: Document and address recruitment and retention challenges for the family support workforce

Action Step 6.3.2: Develop recommendations to increase compensation for family support professionals

Action Step 6.3.3: Explore using the available ARPA funds for wage enhancements, scholarships/loan forgiveness to attract and diversify the workforce