



CHILDCARE:

Nurse Consultation and Coaching Demonstration Project: PACT

LOCATION: Baltimore Metropolitan Area

| **FUNDING:** \$51,375; \$51,375 match

GOALS

Council Goal: Children and adults with developmental disabilities meaningfully participate in all facets of community life and are valued and supported by their communities.

Council Objective: Increase access to inclusive opportunities in early childhood care and education, school, and out of school time activities.

Goals of Initiative: To increase the capacity of licensed child care providers in the Baltimore Metropolitan area to support children with developmental disabilities who also have special healthcare needs in inclusive childcare settings.

OVERVIEW

This demonstration project will increase the capacity of licensed child care providers to support children with developmental disabilities who also have special healthcare needs in inclusive childcare settings in the Baltimore Metropolitan area and develop a model for replication in other areas of Maryland. An experienced pediatric registered nurse will provide on-site technical assistance to train, coach, and consult 50 licensed child care providers to increase their knowledge, skills, and capacity to care for and support children with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Provide child care teachers, center directors, and families with educational materials related to the child's healthcare needs and intervention strategies.
- Provide on-site, hands-on demonstration and coaching to staff in 50 childcare settings. This will be based on an observation and interviews and will result in the development of a training plan.
- Collaborate with Maryland Family Network's nurse consultant to determine the level of support individual programs need and any needed follow-up support a childcare provider needs after the more in-depth, on-site technical assistance is provided by the nurse.
- Act as a referral source for families whose children are ready to leave PACT and/or for families struggling to find childcare for their child with a developmental disabilities and special health care need.
- Collect and share data.

- Share lessons-learned from the demonstration project as well as strategies for supporting children with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs to childcare providers throughout Maryland to support replication statewide.
- Support project replication and expansion by:
 - Partnering with other organizations to identify and recruit nurse coaches in each region of Maryland.
 - Developing a coordinator role to oversee the expansion.
 - Creating guidelines and protocols for the nurse coaching model.
 - Developing and conducting train-the-trainer sessions for more designated nurse coaches.
 - Meeting with the nurse coaches and providing more consultation, if needed.

OUTCOMES

- Childcare providers will increase knowledge, skill, and capacity to support children with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs in inclusive childcare settings.
- Inclusive childcare options for children with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs will increase and more children with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs will learn and play alongside their peers without developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs.
- The nurse consultation and coaching model will expand statewide.