



CHILDCARE:

Roots of Inclusion: Building Capacity through Leadership Development Abilities Network/Project ACT

LOCATION: Statewide

| **FUNDING:** \$25,939; \$11,644 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: Increase the capacity of directors, owners, and other leaders in the child care community to design, implement, and sustain inclusive early childhood programs.

OVERVIEW

A three module training series supporting directors, owners, and other leaders in the child care community, to implement, design, and sustain inclusive early childhood programs will be developed, licensed, and piloted in Baltimore, Cecil, and Harford Counties. A total of 25-40 participants will be trained.

The training series meets the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care's Core of Knowledge (COK) hourly training requirements and final versions are shared with the Maryland Child Care Resource Network (MCCRN) becoming part of the training catalog available to the Child Care Resource Centers (CCRCs) and be available statewide. As a result, this project increases the knowledge, skills, and capacity of child care leaders to support children with developmental disabilities in high quality, inclusive early childhood programs statewide.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

- Develop three training modules to be licensed as COK trainings through research, peer review, revisions, and completion of all Maryland State Department of Education-Office of Child Care (MSDE-OCC) documentation requirements.
- Meet with child care associations in Baltimore, Cecil, and Harford Counties to market the pilot training series, develop training schedule, and select training participants.
- Provide pilot training (one training module per month for three months) to a cohort of 25-40 child care leaders, with a minimum of six participants from Harford County, and a minimum of two participants from Cecil County.

- Follow-up with a select group of training participants after each training to obtain feedback to make revisions to training content and activities.
- Curricula is developed with the input of the child care community that supports child care leaders in improving their inclusive practices and is available statewide.

OUTCOMES

- A diverse group of 25-40 child care leaders will increase their knowledge, skill, and capacity to support children with disabilities in high quality, inclusive child care settings.
- Inclusive child care options for children with developmental disabilities will increase and more children with developmental disabilities will learn and play alongside their peers without developmental disabilities.
- The curriculum will be available to leaders statewide.
- Three new trainings on inclusive practice are available that provide required COK hours to participants.