

Niagara County Infancy Leadership Circle

Overview

The Infancy Leadership Circle/Niagara was established through the commitment of two local leaders from the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc. in Niagara Falls. This developing Circle, recognizing that “it takes a village to raise a child,” wants to support young families by assisting them in developing a greater knowledge of existing community services.

Community Strengths

Niagara County strengths include the ability to provide a variety of community services to benefit young families. There is also a keen interest in reviewing and creatively looking for new strategies to continue to address the quality of child care, health, social-emotional, nutritional, and prenatal/perinatal services by further pursuing supportive and best practices for families.

Community Issues

Circle participants considered poverty, limited knowledge about available community services and resources, lack of jobs, and job training as key issues in Niagara County.

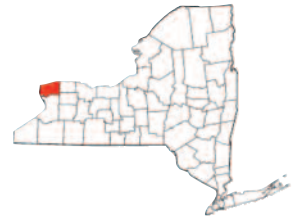
Niagara County Action Plan

Goal: Contribute input into the Parent Guide to be included in the new New York State New Parent Kit.

--Activities: Establish a Niagara Circle focus group and review the Parent Guide to provide feedback to the current draft before publication.

Goal: Create a Resource Directory and website.

--Activities: Provide agency listings, add Circle-related documents and membership listings to create the base for a Resource Directory and web site; participants will provide additional programs listings.



Niagara is located in the northwest corner of New York State. It is bordered on three sides by water: Lake Ontario to the north, Tonawanda Creek to the south, and the Niagara River to the west. The county is home to small towns and rural communities in addition to the world-famous tourist city of Niagara Falls.

General Statistics:

Population: 216,469

Births per year: 2,240[^]

Median Household Income: \$42,580 (↓)*

Early Childhood Statistics:

Infant Mortality Rate: 6.3/1,000 live births (↑)

Infants in WIC Breastfed @6 mo: 14% (↓)

Elevated Lead in Young Children: 1.1% (↑)

[^]Births per year is a 3-year average

*Arrows indicate lower or higher than New York State indicator

Westchester County Infancy Leadership Circle

Overview

The Infancy Leadership Circle/Westchester was established in 2010 as a subset of a preexisting birth to 6 group (ISP 0-6) that has been meeting for several years under the guidance of the Coordinator for the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health and the Executive Director of the Child Care Council of Westchester. Numerous interagency collaborations have been developed as a result of the ISP 0-6 group, including a successful Project LAUNCH grant application.

Community Strengths

A major organization, Westchester Children’s Association, has data and resources and an increasing focus on young children. Many diverse projects and groups focus on infants and toddlers and already work in collaboration across systems and programs. Strong workforce development opportunities and innovative programs include Early Step Forward and Baby Step Forward in multiple locations. Among the groups working together to improve services and program quality are the Home Visiting Workgroup and Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network.

Community Issues

Not enough infants and toddlers are getting the services they need, program funding is being cut, and there are insufficient parent education programs while parental stressors are rising in Westchester. Circle participants talked about switching perspective to prevention and viewing children and their parents together for services. They want to raise knowledge of the importance of the first three years, especially in mental health services, and promote the health home as a hub of services for families.

Westchester County Action Plan

Goal: Build on work of ISP 0-6 group and other initiatives for bigger impact

--Activities in progress: Voter registration, parent education and referral, resource directory

Goal: Prepare Legislative Scorecard on Early Childhood Issues

-Activities: Gather examples from other states, check with Winning Beginning New York Coalition, develop questionnaire with ISP 0-6 group



Westchester County has large cities, towns, and villages within its borders—including some rural areas. It is often characterized as a county of great wealth, but it contains pockets of deep poverty. Major cities include Yonkers and White Plains. Many immigrant groups, from a wide variety of countries and cultures, live here .

General Statistics:

Population: 949,113

Births per year: 11,763[^]

Median Household Income: \$77,057 (↑)*

Early Childhood Statistics:

Infant Mortality Rate: 4.8/1,000 live births (↓)

Infants in WIC Breastfed @6 mo: 56%(↑)

Elevated Lead in Young Children: 0.6% (↓)

[^]Births per year is a 3-year average

*Arrows indicate lower or higher than New York State indicator