In 2003 - 2004, the Child Life Protection Commission, the governing body of the New Jersey Children’s Trust Fund (CTF), and the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect are jointly sponsoring the Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs grants. A total of $971,230 was awarded to 28 programs serving children and adults throughout New Jersey. Among the programs funded are young men/young fathers programs, parenting classes for teen mothers, home visiting for at risk newborns, respite care, programs for families of substance abusers and programs for children with special needs and their families.

CTF grants are competitive. The Child Life Protection Commission and the New Jersey Task Force issued a Request for Proposal, then selected grant recipients based on a thorough review of the proposals submitted. Ethnic, racial, economic, and geographic factors are considered from both a community and statewide perspective.

Of the 28 grant recipients offering child abuse and neglect prevention programs in 2003 - 2004, 10 received awards for the first year, 10 for the second year, and 8 for the third year. These programs, funded on a step-down basis, receive 100% the first year, 80% and 60% of the original awards respectively in the second year and third years.

**BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY**

- Anti-victimization/Conflict Resolution
- Family Education
- Family Resource Centers
- Pre-School/Head Start, Parenting Education
- Parenting Education/Support Groups
- Support Care for Families with
Disabled Members

Young Men/Young Father Programs
Fathers Count is a parent education and peer support program targeted to fathers recovering from substance abuse. The goal is to educate fathers on child abuse and neglect. The program strives to help fathers take responsibility for their children's development and increase their parenting skills. Each group session of ten to twelve fathers runs for eight weeks. The program offers four cycles, thus serving a minimum of 40 fathers per year. The program also provides support through parent volunteers so that fathers can continue to access services after they have "completed" the program.

"21st Century Exploring Parenting" is a ten week family support, parent education program for low income multi-cultural families of young children in the city of Clifton in Passaic County. Two cycles are provided. A total of 30 adults/guardians participate. Program goals include exploring positive ways of raising children,
learning about one's self, sharing ideas and supporting each other's day to day living experiences. The program utilizes the "Exploring Parenting" curriculum. Child care and transportation services augment the program. Community resources, awareness and referrals are integral elements of the program.

**Center for Prevention and Counseling**

*The Family Empowerment Project*

93 Main Street  
Newton, NJ 07860  
(973) 383-4787

Barbara Adolphe  
Executive Director

Grant: $56,000  
Type: Family Education  
Service Area: Sussex County

The Family Empowerment Project reduces child abuse/neglect among Sussex County families that are homeless, at risk of homelessness or have recently become homeless through: 1) skill-building activities using the Strengthening Families Program; 2) monthly booster sessions using Search Institute's asset building; 3) case management services addressing challenges faced by homeless families. As a result, 75% of parents and children increase their life skills and family management skills. This project serves 24 families the major collaborators are Interfaith Hospitality Network, Samaritan Inn and Domestic Abuse Services Inc.

**Covenant House New Jersey, Inc.**

*Dove in the Hand Parenting Program*

929 Atlantic Ave.  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
(609) 348-4070

Joanne McAvenia  
Director of Community Programs

Grant: $55,000  
Type: Parent Education - Workshops  
Service Area: Atlantic, Essex Counties

Covenant House New Jersey serves homeless and at-risk youth up to 21 years of age in Atlantic City, Newark and surrounding areas. The Covenant House's Dove in the Hand Parenting Program serves 60 young parents and expectant mothers with the goal of reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect. A comprehensive series of groups and workshops equip the young women with the vital skills necessary to become loving, nurturing and self-sufficient parents. The program runs in six-week cycles offering parenting education in one-hour group sessions, two days per week.

**International Institute of New Jersey**

*Project An Campe*

880 Bergen Avenue, 5th floor  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
(201) 653-3888

Nicholas Montalto  
Executive Director

Grant: $40,063  
Type: Parenting Education - Support Groups  
Service Area: Union County

Project An Campe (Rising Together) is a unique, multifaceted child abuse prevention project created by and for the Haitian community. Public education and outreach is
accomplished through broadcasts in the Creole language on an ethnic radio station with over 30,000 listeners. Short radio-plays highlight real-life parenting concerns of Haitian families. Haitian community members in Elizabeth, New Jersey attend a 5-week parenting skills group led by a Haitian psychologist. In addition, a group of 6 parents are trained in the model to become peer-educators, co-lead groups in the second year, and lead their own groups in the third year of the grant. Intervention occurs at multiple levels, through the media, direct services to parents and capacity building for the community.

Talking About Touching is a program that was developed by the Committee for Children to prevent child sexual abuse. Talking About Touching addresses the subject of sexual abuse for children ages 4-6 within the framework of personal safety rules, rather than sexuality. The Center for Kids and Family in Lakewood, NJ, through two licensed health educators and community volunteers, brings the program to more than 2,500 Ocean County pre-school and kindergarten children and their parents/caregivers.

The Strengthening Filipino American Families using the "Strengthening Families Hawaii Model" curriculum is designed to build family strengths to prevent child abuse and neglect, substance abuse and other risk factors affecting families. Outreach and recruitment is conducted among Filipino American families in Jersey City through various churches, schools, community organizations and face to face contacts. The program is offered in 4 cycles. Each cycle has 14 two-and-a-half hour educational sessions for 6-10 low to moderate income Filipino American Families in Jersey City with children ages 5-12. A total of 32 to 40 families are being served. Topics include but are not limited to family goal setting, developing positive discipline, dealing with stress and strong emotions, communication skills and increasing responsible behaviors.
Plainfield Public Schools implements the research validated prevention program Families and Schools Together (FAST) to serve 24 at-risk students ages 3 to 12 and their families. The goals are to prevent child abuse by enhancing family functioning, strengthening the parent-child relationship and reducing family stress. A team from the schools and community will be trained to implement the FAST model. Phase I involves holding 2 FAST groups that meets for 8 weeks. During Phase 2, graduates from FAST join a FASTWORKS group, which is parent led and meets monthly.

Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc.
Rainbow Program
40 Journal Square Suite 302
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 610-1446

Nelida Arancibia
Program Director
Grant: $50,000
Type: Family Education
Service Area: Hudson County

The "RAINBOW" Program provides culturally and linguistically appropriate parenting classes and in-home parenting support to 60 Latino families living in Hudson County. Parenting classes conducted by Puerto Rican Family Institute (PRFI) are hosted at the Church of St. Joseph in West New York, NJ. Twenty families attend each of three, 12-week cycles. Classes address discipline, household routines, school performance, socialization, and parent-child relationships. PRFI conducts a bi-weekly home visit with each of the enrolled families to provide one-on-one "coaching" to support skill attainment.

Union Industrial Home for Childern
The Father Center
864 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
(609) 695-1492

Zuline Wilkinson
Executive Director
Grant: $52,976
Type: Family Resource Center
Service: Area: Mercer County

The Father Center, a multicultural parenting education center and clearinghouse for fathers, is based in Trenton and works with men from throughout the greater Mercer County area. The Father Center is a central resource for culturally sensitive information, referrals, parenting education and supervised visitation for fathers. Referrals come from various county and state court and prison systems as well as other community-based initiatives like The Trenton Men's Collaborative and the health centers included in the Children's Futures programs. Clients include first time fathers and those at-risk for abuse and neglect, including men with histories of substance abuse, incarceration, and unstable work.
The Child Abuse Risk Reduction Program is a child abuse and neglect prevention program that teaches positive coping skills to children and parents residing in the Women Center’s Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing. The Child Abuse Risk Reduction Program encourages development of positive parenting skills. A curriculum appropriate for each of our residential programs, which includes a longer-term program that spans 18-24 months for the residents in transitional housing, and a shorter intensive version for shelter residents, is provided.

The Family Resource Center is an aggregate family support program that emphasizes a proactive approach toward the prevention of child abuse and/or neglect. It enhances family stability, develops parental competencies, focuses on prevention, uses a community approach to service and promotes the healthy development of children. The program assists in the developmental view of parents and enhances cultural diversity. The Center provides various types of information, referral services and programs for families, including: Parent education, career exploration and computer
"Count On Me Kids", is a comprehensive, primary prevention program for young children, addressing the connection between child abuse and substance abuse in the family. "Count On Me Kids"; presented to approximately 1,300 - second grade students in 64 classes in the City of Camden's public schools during the regular school day. Camp Fire professional instructors with reinforcement activities provided by teachers and parents present the program in six, 30-40 minutes sessions.

Parents As Positive Role Models, empowers parents as leaders to provide a safe and supportive environment for children by developing leadership skills that apply at home and in the community. The program provides intensive education for 60 parents to help them model proper authority and leadership. Parents are empowered with skills to understand the developmental needs of individual family members for success in and outside the home; create a shared vision of a healthy family; develop community-wide circles of influence; make sound and moral decisions; and resolve conflict peacefully. Parents and their children also attend a Parent-Child Communication workshop to improve listening skills. Parents are recruited from four member churches of the Concerned Pastors of Trenton and Vicinity. Each church recruits 15 parents from their congregation and/or neighborhood. Parents attend six 2 ½-hour weekly leadership workshops that are interactive and activity-based. Parents demonstrate leadership skills by planning, organizing and leading a Family Health Fair event at two local churches. The events focus on the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health of families.
The Young Fathers Parenting Program provides parenting and child development/nurturing skills to 40 youth at the Southern Residential Group Center. Many of the youth are fathers or have parental responsibilities, yet have not experienced what it is like to be part of a nurturing family. Young Fathers Parenting Program components includes weekly fathers support group, interaction between fathers/children, facilitated by program staff and participation of grandparents/guardians/mothers at graduation ceremonies.

Caring For Kids Family Center and the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Project is designed to empower parents to assume an active role in their children's lives. The PAT Birth to Three programs helps parents stimulate their child's physical, intellectual and emotional development and promote strong parent-child relationships. In addition to warm and responsive care, parents learn that they are their children's first and most important teachers. Through the use of the PAT "Born to Learn" curriculum, the Family Center provides two ongoing parenting support groups; one for 10 teen parents and one for 60 new non-teen moms utilizing the complete PAT program model. The Center also provides home visitation, group meetings, linkage, and screenings to other parents in the community.

The LCSC'S Operation: Handhold is a prevention-focused program to provide...
multidisciplinary services to "at-risk" families with disabled children or parents. The goal is to decrease child abuse and neglect by providing an ongoing, supportive one-on-one relationship with a social worker or Family Mentor who improve family functioning and empower parents to secure services through networking and advocacy. Through community outreach and education this program also promotes awareness and early detection of disabilities and special needs. A licensed social worker provides case management, coordinates home visits, and serves as the primary connection to community and governmental resources.

The Consumer Parent Support Network reduces the risk of child abuse and neglect by providing parent education and support to twenty parents with mental illness living in Passaic County. Parent education, role modeling, support case management, linkage to community resources, advocacy and respite services are provided on an individual basis in the parent's home. Parent support group meets monthly for mutual support with guest speakers on topics such as child development, family court, community resources, and communication skills and how to manage mental illness and balance family demands.

NORWESCAP Head Start, Inc. Melanie Erbeau
Help All Violence End Now (H.A.V.E.N)
604 Roseberry Street
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
(908) 454-7000
Grant: $18,403
Type: Parenting Education - Support Groups
Service Area: Warren, Hunterdon and Sussex Counties

NORWESCAP, under the direction of a Family Violence Specialist, provides educational material, educational group presentations, and self-esteem workshops for 346 children and families enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start in Warren, Hunterdon, and Sussex Counties. The specialist also facilitates five support groups. Domestic violence victims and their children participate for 20 weeks in these 2-hour sessions. One and a half-hours are dedicated to the women and one half hour for the children to express their feelings. Child care and transportation are provided.
(P.A.P.I.) is a proactive program designed to prevent child abuse and neglect in families of new immigrants, migrant farm workers and other disenfranchised people where language and cultural differences present barriers to mainstream services. Through a series of 6 parent education/support sessions, PAPI helps 100 participants understand the construct of child abuse, recognize stress factors which contribute and increase their ability to deal successfully with these issues and family/community life.
The expanded *Strengthening the Family* program is an effective, research-based program, designed to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors for child abuse/neglect in homeless, single-parent families. It is a 14-session parenting program, with distinct objectives for parents, 6-10 year-old children and the family unit. Two cycles of the program provide services to 60 participants in Ocean County. The program, which is culturally sensitive, attempts to reduce risk factors of children by strengthening the family and improving parenting skills. Parents learn to discipline appropriately and provide their children with positive attention. Children and their parents are taught to recognize and communicate feelings and spend positive time together. A meal, incentives and childcare services are provided.

"*Circle of Supports*" offers Special Unique Preventions: Parenting Outreach Teaching and Strengthening for 18 families of children with disabilities. It helps to prevent child abuse and neglect by reducing stress through respite and family mentors. It improves family functioning through involvement in the EPIC Parenting program and...
empowers parents in securing special education services through parent advocate and SPAN trainings. A licensed social worker provides case management, home visits and a connection to community resources. This family-centered program recognizes that families are the experts in what they need. They are encouraged to use their strengths to meet their needs outlined in the Family Support Plan, written collaboratively by the parents and professionals.

**Parents As Teachers Three to Five (PAT),** is designed to educate parents using home visits on the developmental milestones of children, ages three to five. Parents participate in monthly parent group meetings on topics that parents deem important and necessary. By combining home visits and parent group meetings, the program empowers parents to take an active role in their child's life.

**Helping Hands** is an intergenerational program, enhancing the capacity of families to care for children with special needs with the support of pre-screened, trained, older adult volunteers. Seniors receive ongoing supervision and training and are encouraged to form trusting and caring relationships that improve the health of the entire family. The program is designed to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect by expanding the family's circle of support. Positive parent training, resources and special activities to promote respite opportunities are provided for 20 Ocean County families with children with disabilities from birth to 12-years-old.

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**AtlantiCare Foundation**
Parents as Teachers Three to Five
6725 Delilah Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
(609) 407-7764

**Virginia Gormley**
Health Status Improvement Coordinator
Grant: $16,800
Type: Parent Education - Home Visits/Mentor
Service Area: Atlantic County

**Epilepsy Foundation of NJ**
Helping Hands
Lions Head Office Park
35 Beaverson Blvd., Suite 8A
Brick, NJ 08611
(732) 262-8020

**Vivian Bartkus**
Director of Family Support Services
Grant: $29,755
Type: Parenting Education - Respite Care & For Disabled Children
Service Area: Ocean County

**Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Program, Inc.**
Halt Abuse in Paterson for Parents and Youth (HAPPY)
393 Main Street
Paterson, NJ 07501
(973) 523-6220

**Sister Gloria Perez**
Executive Director
Grant: $19,200
Type: Family Education
Service Area: Passaic County
**Halt Abuse in Paterson for Parents and Youth**, (HAPPY), focuses on improving parenting skills and relationships between mothers and their children residing at Eva's Shelter for Women and Children, thereby limiting potential for child abuse among this population. The program introduces the mothers to methods of identifying stressors that predispose them to anger and frustration which, in turn, are acted out in abusive behavior towards their children. The residents, who usually remain at the shelter for approximately five months, are participants in this program. In this program 20 women between the ages of 35 and 50, and their children are included. Participants learn positive ways to manage stress, communicate their needs and feelings and expectations of their children in a non-threatening manner.

**Safe at Home**
2265 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 989-9417

**HomeFront**
Executive Director
Connie Mercer Myers

**Safe at Home's** goal is to reduce child abuse and neglect in families sheltered in Rowan Towers, a transitional high rise building for low-income/homeless families, by providing a strong and comprehensive support system that reduces social isolation. Case management and a training system allow mothers to learn and employ effective parenting techniques. In this program 15 families are enrolled in each 22-week session, which includes personal and group counseling sessions for parents and a "Kidz Club" for school-age children in which they learn how to protect themselves from abuse.

In addition to intensive case management, the program offers an on-site therapist for short-term counseling, a safe haven for children on each floor of the building, a cooperative child care network and monthly educational/recreational activities that allow families to learn to play together.

**Isles, Inc.**
Parents Empowering Parents (PEP)
10 Wood Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
(609) 393-5656, Ext. 26

**Leontyne Anglin**
Program Facilitator
Grant: $27,648
Type: Family Education
Service Area: Mercer County

The **Parents Empowering Parents (PEP)** program is a community-based program that builds strong families through a series of workshops that prevent child abuse and neglect. **PEP** provides a forum in which parents are able to recognize their common joys and frustrations. Drawing on each other's strengths, participation in **PEP** enables individuals to expand parenting skills, cope with the stresses of parenting and family life and reduce the attraction to substance abuse. **PEP** teaches parents to stay in control while bonding with their children.

**Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc.**
Me and My Family
Lydia Trinidad
Executive Director
**Me and My Family (MMF)** fosters positive family functioning through an interactive ten-month bilingual program in PRAHD’s MiEscuelita childcare program for preschoolers and their low-income parents. **MMF** leverages the closeness of parents and their youngest school age children in an effort to emphasize the need to respect and protect family from the vagaries of child abuse and neglect. **MMF** utilizes 30-minute, biweekly in-class activities, monthly parenting workshops; in-home support sessions to help families recognize and prevent child abuse and neglect. In this program 70 preschoolers and their parents receive the training.