

Project LAUNCH Abstract

Population to be Served: Project LAUNCH will serve over 11,000 children birth to age 8 living in four counties of rural Appalachian Ohio: Athens, Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs.

Summary: The goal of Project LAUNCH for Appalachian Ohio is to create a shared vision for young child wellness that builds a solid foundation for sustaining effective, integrated services and systems to support and promote the wellness of young children and their families. To achieve that goal, Ohio has two objectives: (1) to build our infrastructure and (2) to enhance and expand service delivery by coordinating physical and behavioral health services for young children across systems and develop and implement a model for coordination of physical and behavioral health services that is appropriate for Ohio's Appalachian region.

Strategies/Goals/Objectives:

The purpose of Project LAUNCH at both the state and local level is to promote the wellness of young children birth to age 8. Wellness is a state of positive physical, emotional, social and behavioral health; behavioral health includes mental health and positive development free from substance abuse and other negative behaviors. At the state and local levels, we will map out all systems that serve children birth to 8; create a strategic plan which emerges from the environmental scan and needs assessment information; focus on infrastructure building, financial mapping, policy development, workforce development, and oversight of Project LAUNCH.

Locally, Project LAUNCH has two goals. Goal 1 addresses services and will (a) increase the number of sites and the types of developmental screening tools used in the region, (b) increase the number of primary care sites with integrated behavioral health services offering evidenced based treatments (PCIT, TF-CBT, IMPACT), (c) implement EBPs Home Visiting program, (d) provide EMCH consultation in primary care, preschools, homes, and early childcare settings, and (e) strengthen families through the Family Navigator Program, parent skills training, nutrition counseling, & art and recreation programs. Goal 2 strengthens the local infrastructure and develops workforce capacity. Working together the State and Local Young Child Wellness Council will accomplish systems integration and advance the public's understanding of the multiple determinants informing child wellness

Project LAUNCH will allow Ohio to:

- Build awareness about the importance of early identification through evidenced-based screenings in primary care across all provider systems (medicine, education, etc.)
- Improve coordination of care from the point of identification, through the referral process, and the provision of evidenced-based services so that consumers and those who serve young children share a vision of the components of strong families and young child wellness,
- Development policies and infrastructure to solidify supports that enable local communities to transform system by leveraging community assets and cultural values.

