



EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE



Area of Focus: School Readiness

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) is the community foundation serving Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Perry, and York (Dillsburg) Counties. Our mission is to inspire giving by partnering with donors to achieve their charitable goals and **strengthening our local communities by investing in them now and for future generations**. One way in which TFEC invests in the future of our area communities is through the TFEC Early Education Initiative.

The mission of the TFEC Early Education Initiative is to cultivate, convene and strengthen community opportunities for growth, safety, and wellness for all children, now and for future generations.

The TFEC Early Education Initiative is guided by the expertise of the TFEC Early Education Advisory Committee. The membership of this group consists of early childhood stakeholders who represent the assets and needs of children and early childhood professionals within our area communities. **As guided by the TFEC Early Education Advisory Committee, from 2018-2020 the TFEC Early Education Initiative will address three areas of need within our regional communities: Trauma Informed Community, Workforce Development, and School Readiness.**

School Readiness

Through our work in School Readiness, the TFEC Early Education Initiative seeks to empower caregivers, connect educators, and deepen resources that help children enter school ready to learn. In 2019, this included:

\$28,500 IN EARLY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED

In 2019, The TFEC Early Education Initiative introduced an opportunity for early education scholarship support, with awards ranging from \$1,500 - \$2,500. Each early education scholarship provides financial support to children ages 3 - 5 years old to attend a quality preschool program during the 2019 - 2020 school year. In 2019, a total of \$28,500 was awarded to thirteen families within Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, and Perry Counties.

39 DIRECT SERVICE VISITS

Young children who experience family homelessness are less likely to be ready for kindergarten, and many do not enroll in quality preschool programs that can help them to prepare for success in the early school years. Through weekly visits to the Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families, a family shelter that serves men, women and children in the Capital Region, TFEC's Early Education Specialists provide parents with materials and resources in order to better prepare their children for school while participating in creative projects. While the target population for these family engagement activities are families with 3-5 year olds not enrolled in a preschool program, this program serves any child present at the time of the visit who wants to participate.

EARLY LEARNING CONFERENCE

TFEC has been offering transition forums and conferences in Dauphin County since 2012, and in 2019, expanded its Kindergarten Transition Conference (now the Early Learning Conference) to Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Perry, and Lebanon counties. In 2019, the Kindergarten Transition Conference welcomed 136 attendees representing a total of seven Pennsylvania Counties.

For more information on how you can partner & support the work TFEC's Early Education Initiative is doing, contact Leslie Fick at lfick@tfec.org, or Jeanne Predmore at jpredmore@tfec.org.

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