



Area of Focus: Trauma Informed Community

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.**

Trauma Informed Community

Through our work in Trauma Informed Community, the TFEC Early Education Initiative seeks to foster trauma informed education, practices, and resiliency resources that impact a child's ability to grow up happy, healthy, and safe. In 2019, this included:

TRAUMA INFORMED VISION

Our vision for a trauma informed community is to begin by building piloted communities that promote trauma-informed knowledge, awareness and practice. Becoming "trauma-informed" to us means recognizing that people often have many different types of trauma in their lives. People who have been traumatized need support and understanding from those around them. Often, trauma survivors can be re-traumatized by well-meaning caregivers and community service providers. Health and social service providers along with school districts are recognizing the value of adopting Trauma-Informed Care principles into their practice to prevent re-traumatization. We have begun to partner with these organizations. To reduce the impact of traumatic events and Adverse Childhood Experiences, and increase mental wellness, we seek to:

- Increase our understanding and awareness of trauma and ACEs
- Provide trauma-informed care and services
- Develop nurturing, resilient and trauma-informed communities

To begin this work, in 2019 TFEC provided an overview of core values, principles and interventions, incorporated under the lens of trauma. From this training, thirteen Community Champions in our five county footprint were identified. These organizations deepened their knowledge by participating in a "Becoming Trauma Informed" three day workshop provided by The Health Federation of Philadelphia (HFP). With continued support from HFP, each Community Champion will deliver this curriculum within their county at least two times in the next two years. Supported by \$62,500 in TFEC funds, this program will result in 39 trauma informed nonprofit organizations within TFEC's five county service area by 2021.

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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