Sustainability Planning for Infant-Toddler Court Teams: Policy & Financing Strategies

Sustainability Webinar Series
July 21, 2022
Today’s webinar is the *third* in a series and will focus on policy and funding strategies to sustain Infant-Toddler Court Teams in states and local communities.

- The *first webinar* focused on an introduction to Sustainability Planning with partners in Washington State.
- The *second webinar* focused on collaboration and key champions with partners in Pueblo, Colorado.

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Today’s Speakers

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“Sustainability is not just about funding. It’s about creating and building momentum to maintain communitywide change by organizing and maximizing community assets and resources. It means institutionalizing policies and practices within communities and organizations...involving a multiplicity of stakeholders who can develop long term buy-in and support throughout the community for your coalition’s efforts.

These elements are crucial to ensuring lasting change and making a difference in people’s lives.”

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), A Sustainable Planning Guide for Healthy Communities
Key Elements of Sustainability for Infant-Toddler Court Teams

This sustainability framework developed collaboratively with our partner the Center for the Study of Social Policy
ITCs work at the intersection of all 3 areas
What do we mean by policy?

**Big P Policy**
- Enacted by national government, state government
- Takes a long time to develop; broad consensus required from many varied groups
- Often affects a whole population

**Little P Policy**
- Enacted by localities (local government, local public agencies, organizations)
- Takes less time to develop/deploy (relative to Big P Policy)
- Still requires collaboration, smaller scale
- Impact is limited in scale, fewer lives impacted
Policymaking Processes

Big P Policy

- Laws enacted by Congress
- National budget decisions
- State regulations/law
- State budget decisions

Little P Policy

- Local laws
- Local government budget decisions
- Local government agency policies
- Organization or public entity changes to policy/practice
Examples of how ITCs have created policy change:

• Local or statewide ITCs established that are specialty courts serving families with 0-3 year olds

• Created formal roles for parent partners/mentors in the ITC process with policy guidance on the role, job descriptions

• Required more frequent court hearings for very young children and their families

• Established policies to create formal connections between ITC and other programs (e.g. Early Head Start)

• State law developed for ITC/early childhood court model

• State budget bills have included line items for ITC/early childhood courts
Is your ITC ready to work on policy?

Key Questions:

• Do you have relationships with people in your community/state who are early childhood advocates?

• Is there someone connected to the ITC team that has a pulse on policy actions?

• Are there advocates and others in policymaking roles understand your work?

• Are you ready to respond if you get an inquiry about the ITC?

• How are you seeking out opportunities to share about your program?
Newly Released: A Policy Framework for States

www.zerotothree.org/PolicyFramework
Financing ITCs
Funding & Resources

Funding from One or More Sources + Shared Resources with Partners
Poll Question

How is your ITC funded currently?

1) Mostly federal funds
2) Mostly state funds
3) Mostly local funds
4) Other
Infant-Toddler Court Teams Use A Mix Of Funding Types

Number of Safe Babies Court Team (SBCT) Sites Using a Funding Source*

- Local: 11
- State: 26
- Federal: 28
- Private: 5

*Sites may report more than one funding source.
Findings are based on a 2020 survey of SBCT sites. 35 SBCT sites responded, 10 of which are HRSA-funded evaluation sites.
Infant-Toddler Court Teams Leverage Many In-Kind and Donated Services and Supports

- Meeting Space: 15
- Goods for Families: 15
- Office Space: 11
- Supplies and Equipment: 8
- Facilities Costs: 8
- Shared Admin Staff: 7
- Services for Families: 3

Number of Sites

Meeting Space | Goods for Families | Office Space | Supplies and Equipment | Facilities Costs | Shared Admin Staff | Services for Families
## Potential Federal Funding Sources for ITCs

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<tr>
<th>ACF</th>
<th>HRSA</th>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>DOE</th>
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| • Title IV-B  
• Title IV-E  
• Social Services Block Grant (SSBG- Title XX)  
• CAPTA/CBCAP  
• Child Care and Development Block Grant  
• Early Head Start/Head Start  
• MIECHV  
• Court Improvement Program  
• Preschool Development Grant – Birth to Five | • Infant-Toddler Court Program  
• Healthy Start  
• MIECHV | • Medicaid  
• CHIP | • IDEA – Parts B & C | • Mental Health Block Grant  
• Substance Abuse Block Grant  
• System of Care Grants |

Source: [ZTT Federal Funding Guide](#)
Infant-Toddler Court Teams Access A Variety Of **Federal** Funding

**Competitive Grant Programs**
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – Infant-Toddler Court Program
- Children’s Justice Act (Department of Justice/Administration for Children and Families)
- Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (Department of Justice)
- System of Care (SOC) Expansion and Sustainability Grants (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

**Block Grants to States**
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Infant-Toddler Set-Aside
- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

**Other**
- Title IV-B of the Social Security Act
- Court Improvement Program (CIP)
Infant-Toddler Court Teams Access State and Local Funding

- State budget dollars (e.g. general revenue, state dollars as matching funds for a federal funding stream)
- Local county funds (e.g. local general funds, local funds from special taxing, pass through dollars from the state)
- Private philanthropic funding
Florida’s Pathway to ITC Sustainability
IN THE BEGINNING
BUILDING A NETWORK
FLORIDA’S EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT
Target group: abused and neglected children who enter the dependency court system before age three

STATEWIDE PARTNERS
- Office of the State Courts Administrator
- Department of Children and Families
- Florida Guardian ad Litem Program
- Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy, Florida State University
- Florida Institute for Child Welfare
- Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association
- Florida Association for Infant Mental Health
- Other universities and child-serving agencies

LOCAL PARTNERS
COURT TEAM*
- Judge
- Community coordinator
- Caseworker
- Guardian ad Litem
- Attorneys
- Clinician
- Parents
- Caregivers
- Parent supports

*The judge led court team is comprised of key community stakeholders who are committed to restructuring the way the community responds to the needs of infants and toddlers in child welfare. Members of the court team who are directly involved with a family’s case (including the parents but excluding the judge) have monthly Family Team Meetings to support the family and address specific needs.

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES
- Best practice standard and certification
- Trauma responsive education
- Treatment and service provider capacity-building
- Maintenance of statewide data system
- Evaluation
- Continuous quality improvement
- Funding and Sustainability
- Statewide training events
- Legislative activities
- Statewide data collection

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES
- Heals trauma and promotes parenting capacity
- Builds attachment
- Tracks progress
- Ensures developmental and family supports
- Placement stability

LOCAL ACTIVITIES
- Early intervention providers
- Infant mental health providers
- Child-serving agencies
- Parent service providers
- Department of Children and Families leadership
- Child advocates
- Health and dental providers
- Funders
- And more

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES
- Monthly case review court hearings
- Monthly family team meetings
- Early childhood services
- Co-parenting
- Evidence-based treatment
- Frequently family contact
- Concurrent planning from day 1
- Continuous quality improvement

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
- Decreases time to a permanent home
- Reduces recurrence of maltreatment
- Improves child well-being
- Increases cost savings for taxpayers
- Breaks the intergenerational cycle of child abuse
- Enhances public confidence and satisfaction with the child welfare system

*Additional details such as funding and sustainability, technical assistance for local programs, resource materials, and legislative activities are also included in the statewide efforts to support the local court teams. The diagram illustrates the flow of activities and outcomes, emphasizing the collaborative approach to early childhood court services.
THE SECRET INGREDIENT?
RELATIONSHIPS
Strengthening Families with Infants and Toddlers: A Policy Framework for States

Supporting Sustainability For Infant-Toddler Court Teams: A Federal Funding Guide

Florida Early Childhood Courts