

Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability Summary

Agency Purpose:

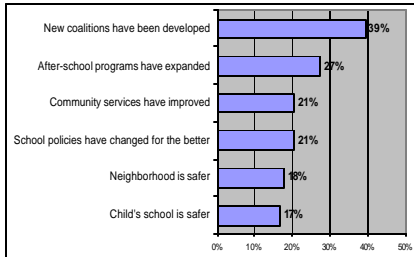
The purpose of the Children's Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect and to ensure the positive growth and development of children.

Program

The Parent Trust Fund supports parent leadership training to improve the health, safety and education of children across Connecticut.

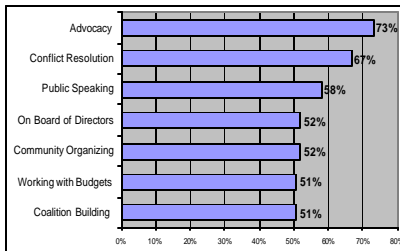
Performance Measure 1

Parent leaders create positive change in the systems that serve and support children and families.



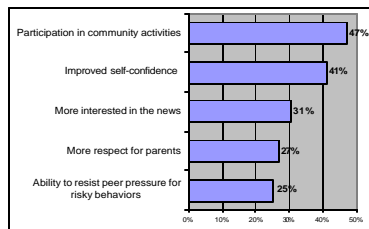
Performance Measure 2

Parents become more confident and assertive, and take on more leadership roles as a result of the training.



Performance Measure 3

Children benefit by observing their parents in action as advocates and decision-makers.



Key Budget Information	
Total Current Program Year Funding	\$306,911
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Population Result	>1%
Program Funding As Percent of Total Agency Budget	2%
Funding Distribution	
Total Federal Funds	\$0
Total State Funds	\$306,911
Capital Projects Subtotal	
Other Funding	\$0
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third Parties	81%

Story Behind the Baselines

The University of New Hampshire conducted a study on the Parent Leadership Training Institute in June 2004.

The study found that 96% of parents reported high satisfaction with the course and benefited in the following ways:

- Performance Measures 1: Parents report being able to create positive change in the system
- Performance Measure 2: Parents report being more confident and assertive.
- Performance Measure 3: Parents report children benefiting from seeing their parents as role models.

Turning The Curves: What do you propose to do over the next two years and why?

No Cost/Low Cost:

Develop a mechanism for trainers to share information and enhance their skills.

Other

In order to have a parent voice for policy development and leadership in Connecticut more parents need to participate in this type of training. The Graustein Memorial Fund has offered to match new state dollars for this purpose. We propose increasing the General Fund appropriation for the Parent Trust Fund in order to secure the full match offered by the Graustein Foundation.

We are also proposing funds to support an evaluation of program.

**Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template
Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability**

Agency Purpose: Children's Trust Fund

The purpose of the Children's Trust Fund is to prevent child abuse and neglect and to ensure the positive growth and development of children. As a result, our efforts have centered on finding the most effective means of assisting families whose children are at risk of abuse and neglect so that they have a chance for a better future for themselves and their children.

Program Purpose:

The Parent Trust Fund supports parent leadership training to improve the health, safety and education of children across Connecticut. It is the first program of its kind in the nation. The Parent Trust provides funds to community-based agencies to train parents to become skilled advocates and strong voices for children at the local, state or national level.

Contribution to Population Result:

National research shows that parent leadership programs lead to more parent involvement and participation in school and community partnerships. Children, schools and communities benefit when parents are more involved. This increased involvement has been shown to result in better student achievement and lower drop-out rates.

Key Budget Information

Total Current Program Year Budget	\$306,911
Funding as Percent of All Funding for Quality of Life Result	
Program Funding as Percent of Total Agency Budget	2%
Budget Distribution:	
Federal	\$0
State	
General Fund	\$306,911
Capital Project Funds	
Other State Funding	
Other Funds (Not Federal or State)	\$0
Percent of Total Current Funding Spent on Direct Service	65%
Percent of Total Current Funding Contracted to Third parties	81%

Basic Program Facts –

The Parent Trust Fund supports training programs at 29 sites throughout Connecticut. These sites are using six parent leadership training curriculum models. These include: Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), People Empowering People (PEP), Parents Supporting Educational Excellence (Parents SEE), Voices for Families, Leadership for Adolescent Parents, AFCAMP Parent Leadership Training.

More than 600 parents participated in courses in parent leadership from June 2005 through December 2006.

The Parent Trust Fund grew out efforts to establish a family support initiative. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the early work of the Parent Trust Fund. The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund also contributed along with several state

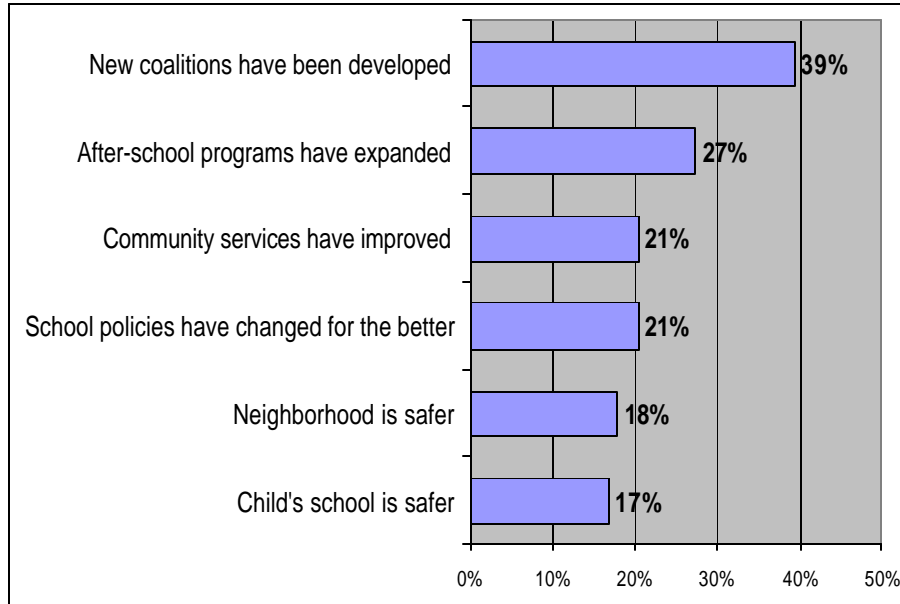
departments. The Children's Trust Fund received state funding for the Parent Trust Fund in 2005.

Performance Measures and Story Behind the Baselines

Summary of Story Behind the Baselines:

Performance Measure 1

Parent leaders create positive change in the systems that serve and support children and families.



Story Behind Measure 1

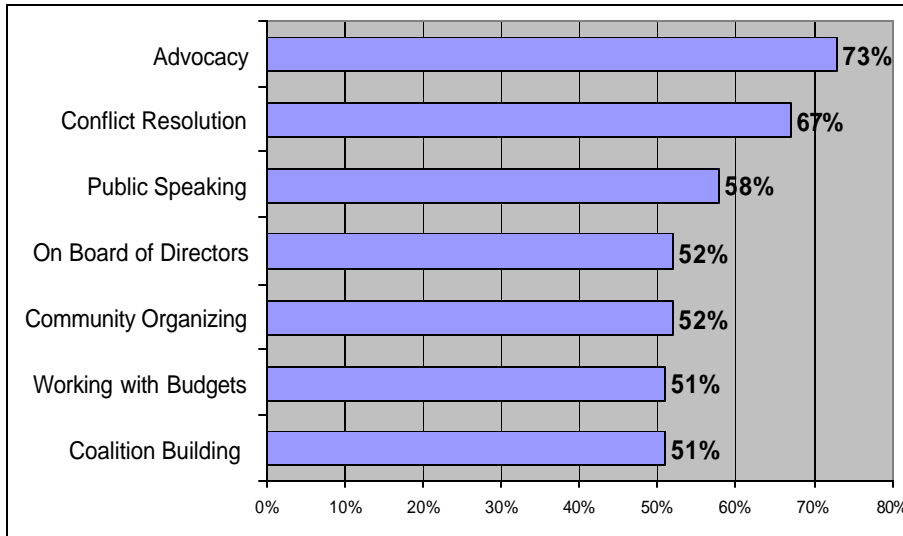
The chart includes data from a one time study and the results of the Parent Leadership Training curriculum. This study was conducted by the University of New Hampshire.

The research found:

- Almost 20% of training participants reported that their schools and neighborhoods were safer as a result of their advocacy efforts.
- Roughly 25% of participants reported a positive impact on school policies and community services.
- Almost 40% of participants reported that new coalitions had been developed.
- More than 20% indicated that community service improved.

Performance Measure 2

Parents become more confident and assertive, and take on more leadership roles as a result of the training.

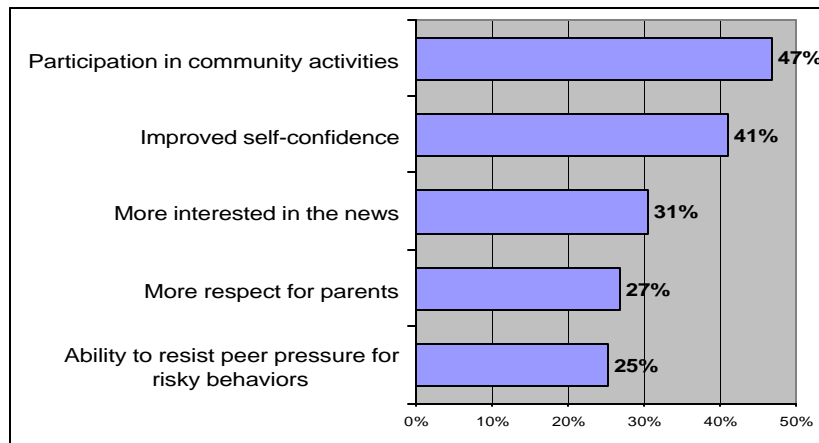


Story Behind Measure 2

- Following the training participants of the parent leadership courses continued in their leadership roles. Their efforts included: writing letters to the newspapers, advocating, running for elected office.
- Parent leaders have sought to further their own education as a result of the training (GED through graduate studies).
- Parent leaders report an increase in their conflict resolution skills both inside and outside the family.
- Parents report valuing their time with their families more as a result of the trainings.

Performance Measure 3

Children benefit by observing their parents in action as advocates and decision-makers.



Story Behind Measure 3

- More than 40% of children whose parents participated in training became more self-confident.
- Roughly 30% of the children became interested in the news and became more respectful for parents.
 - Parents learn to assess their children's needs and develop the confidence to speak out on their children's behalf (Solloway, 2004; New Britain Parent Trust Fund Report, 2006).
 - Children benefit by observing their parents in action as advocates and decision-makers (Solloway 2004; Bridgeport Parent Trust Fund Report, 2006).
 - Men involved in parent leadership programs have partnered with fatherhood initiatives in the state to increase father involvement statewide (Solloway, 2004; Girouard 2004).
 - Parents are helping more with homework (Solloway, 2004).

Story Behind Measure 3

- More than 40% of children whose parents participated in training became more self-confident.
- Roughly 30% of the children became interested in the news and became more respectful.
- More than 25% reported that they were better able to resist peer pressure.
- Almost 50% participated in community activities.
- Children benefit by observing their parents in action as advocates and decision makers.

Partners and Their Roles

Partners include:

- Connecticut Commission on Children trains and supports program sites.
- Connecticut Center for School Change has provided administrative support for the program.
- William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund has offered an opportunity for matching funds.

What do you propose to do to improve performance in the next 3-5 years and why?

No Cost/Low Cost:

Develop a mechanism for trainers to share information and enhance their skills.

In order to have a parent voice for policy development and leadership in Connecticut more parents need to participate in this type of training.

The William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund has seen the benefits of this program. As a result, the Foundation has offered to match all new dollars allocated in the General Fund for the Parent Trust Fund-up to \$150,000 this year, \$200,000 next year and \$300,000 the year after.

CTF: The Parent Trust Fund

We propose increasing the General Fund appropriation for the Parent Trust Fund so we can secure the full match offered by the Graustein Foundation.

Appendix A, Data Development Agenda

Funding is needed to develop a research-based evaluation for the parent leadership programs.

Appendix B, Link to Budget

Appendix C, Information and Research Agenda

Creating an evaluation design to study the program models and outcomes. A cost benefit analysis would also be useful.

Appendix D, Partners (Optional)

Appendix E, What Works (Optional)