



Amoskeag Health LAUNCH Manchester



Community Grantee

LAUNCH Manchester (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) promotes the overall health and wellbeing of children birth-8 and their families. LAUNCH utilizes a cross-sector team focused on several priority areas: 1. Improving access to high-quality early education and care; 2. Empowering families; 3. Identifying and mitigating the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences; and 4. Improving access to health, behavioral health, and specialized medical services. These priority areas are supported by strong community partners, local leadership and the use of evidence-based strategies. LAUNCH Manchester is an initiative of Amoskeag Health, a federally qualified health center offering high-quality, comprehensive, and family-oriented primary health care and support services.

Funded Project 1: Ready Set LAUNCH

LAUNCH Manchester used Preschool Development Grant funds to spearhead two community initiatives:

1) Ready Set LAUNCH is a universal newborn home visit program that serves as an accessible, culturally and linguistically sensitive, and strengths-based resource and referral mechanism to ensure families can thrive. Ready Set LAUNCH was implemented in June 2021 with partner Elliot Hospital. PDG funds enabled LAUNCH Manchester to establish a workgroup to plan and implement this new program.

Through Ready Set LAUNCH, any family who resides in Manchester and delivers at Elliot Hospital is eligible for a one-time free home visit from a Newborn Navigator. Families who agree to a home visit receive a Welcome Baby Bag with items for parents and babies. Visits can occur virtually or in person at the family's home or community. During the visit, the Navigator checks in to see how new parents are adjusting to life with a newborn and to complete a screening with the family to identify the types of resources and supports families may need, want, or be unaware of. The Navigator then connects the family to those community resources and makes a referral or connection on their behalf if necessary. The Newborn Navigator was hired and began home visits in June 2021. Thus far, 113 home visits have taken place. Over half of participating families have received referrals to other community-based services, such as food and diaper pantries, housing/rental assistance, home visiting programs, and behavioral health services.



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Funded Project 2: Pyramid Model Expansion

The Pyramid Model is an evidence-based framework currently being implemented in early childhood care and education (ECCE) programs in Manchester with support from the Community-Wide Leadership Team (CWLT) for Pyramid Model Implementation. The Pyramid Model increases teachers' capacity to promote positive social-emotional competence in all children, provide targeted behavior instruction, intervene in the classroom when children demonstrate social-emotional difficulties, and make referrals for children who need additional services.

With support from PDG funding, Pyramid Model implementation took place in four Manchester child care sites, with nine teachers being coached in the model across five classrooms. In Fall 2021, the program expanded to two school district preschool sites, with an additional nine teachers being coached across five classrooms. The CWLT provided implementation sites with training and coaching in this model to facilitate its implementation. The CWLT continues to meet monthly. The PM framework gives programs the tools they need to be successful, and teachers the opportunity to learn and progress through reflective practices. Young learners receive the support they need from their teachers, and parents have additional chances to learn about child development and understand appropriate ways to manage their children's behavior. Families receive additional opportunities for support through Positive Solutions for Families (the PM curriculum for families), and ECCE programs make referrals as needed to community-based mental health services provided by the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester.



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