

Improving Lives and Livelihoods in Indiana

The mission of the Extension Human Development specialty is to maximize the psychological, social, physical, and emotional well-being of Indiana residents.

Family well being is a high priority for Indiana. Consumer and Family Science (CFS) human development Extension educators make a difference for children and families in their communities by providing a variety of research-based, impact-oriented programs, resources, and delivery methods (varies by county).

Life Skills and Living Well

- ¹Nearly one-third of Hoosiers under the age of 19 (32%) live in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment.
- ¹More than 272,000 Indiana children (17%) of those under 18 live in poverty; 20% of children under age 6 live in poverty; 35% of single-parent families with related children live below poverty.
- ¹Fifteen percent (15%) of persons age 18-24 with no degree beyond high school are not attending school and not working.

²Life Skills and Living Well Plan of Work (POW) Priorities

- Strengthen the capacity of individuals and families to establish and maintain economic security and a quality emotional environment throughout their lives.
- Facilitate personal development including life skills, self-esteem, and conflict management

Life Skills and Living Well Extension programming offered (varies by county): i-LEaD (Indiana Leadership Education and Development); Communication and Relationship Skills; Educational Attainment Initiative; Bridges Out of Poverty; Bringing Yourself to Work; Community Wellness Coalitions; Facilitation Skills; Strengthening Communities to Benefit Families; Coalition Building

Strengthening Family Relationships

- ¹Thirty percent (30%) of Indiana children live in single-parent families; 4% of grandchildren are in the care of grandparents; 7% of children live with cohabiting domestic partners; and 6% of children live with neither parent.
- ³From 1998-2002 a total of 247 children died from abuse (134) and neglect (113); In 2003, 51 children died of abuse and 61,492 children were reported to Child Protective Services for child maltreatment (more than 1/3rd of all reports were substantiated). In 2004, 24 children died of abuse.

²Strengthening Family Relationships Plan of Work Priorities

- Increase individual's basic parenting knowledge and skills
- Support grandparents raising grandchildren
- Build positive communication skills (adult-to-adult; parent-to-child)
- Support aging and development in later life

Strengthening Family Relationships Extension programming offered (varies by county): Parenting Education and Newsletters; Parenting Piece-by-Piece; PACT (Parents Apart Cooperating Together); Teen Decisions; Parents Raising Safe Kids; Adult Children, Aging Parents; Caring for an Older Relative in My Home; It's My Child, Too!; Mentor Mother; Parenting Counts; Teaching Parents to Use Play Techniques with Their Children (filial therapy model); Managing Challenging Behaviors of Young Children; Caregiving in the Heartland

Quality Child Care

- ¹There were 311,655 children under age 6 in Indiana whose parents had jobs.
- ¹Twenty-nine percent (29%) of children under age 6 are reported to regularly attend family-based child care outside of their home
- ¹Fifty percent (50%) of children are enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten (ages 3 to 5)
- ⁴Hoosiers spent about \$633 million on licensed child care, according to the National Economic Development and Law Center. If one parent in the household is released to work because the child is being provided with care, and that parent is able to earn at the average wage level for the state (\$38,060 in 2003), child care absorbs 12.3% of gross earnings. For parents, that is nearly an 8 to 1 return on their child care investment (ROI) each year.

Quality Child Care Plan of Work Priorities

- Increase knowledge of child care and how to manage care giving roles and responsibilities
- Increase number of child care professionals who are working toward or who have obtained the Child Development Associate Credential
- Increase the number of childcare slots available for children
- Increase the number of child care professional positions
- Increase the number of quality and affordable child care facilities

Quality Child Care Extension Programming (varies by county): Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential training and renewal classes for child care providers needing this credential for state licensing; ACT (Adults and Children Together) Against Violence; Managing Challenging Behaviors of Young Children; Extension support to Infant/Toddler Specialists of Indiana network and resources; Extension support to new child care Quality Rating System (QRS) to be implemented in January 2008.

For more information about Extension human development programs and resources, visit <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/cfs/topics/HD/index.htm>

¹ *The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2007 Kids Count Data Book, released July 2007*

² *Indiana Extension Family Well-Being Plan of Work, March 2007*

³ *Indiana Family and Social Services Administration*

⁴ *The Economic Dimensions of the Child Care Industry in Indiana: An Invisible Industry, September 2005*

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July 2007