

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

*Addressing the social-emotional needs of
young children: Building capacity for
mental health consultation in early
childhood settings*

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Project LAUNCH

(Linking Action with Unmet Need in Children's Health)

- Improve coordination and collaboration across child-serving systems
- Improve access to higher quality care and evidence-based programs for young children and their families
- Raise awareness and increase knowledge about young child wellness through public education and workforce development



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Project LAUNCH (Linking Action with Unmet Need in Children's Health)

- Five key prevention strategies
 - Home Visitation
 - Mental Health Consultation
 - Family Strengthening
 - Developmental Screening
 - Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care
- Funding
 - 4.5 million – Five year grant from SAMHSA
- Local and State-Level Child Wellness Councils

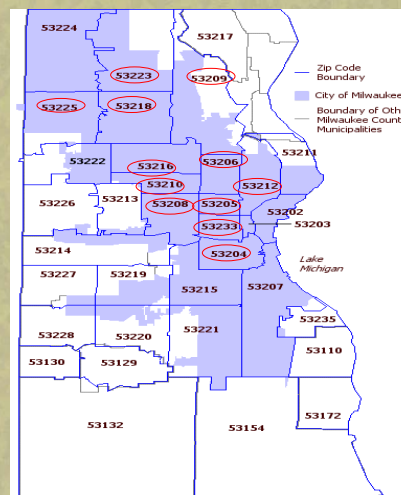
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LAUNCH Target Zip Codes

Project LAUNCH focuses its services in the 12 zip codes with the highest rates of:

- late prenatal care;
- premature birth, low birth weight and infant mortality;
- childhood lead poisoning;
- sexually transmitted diseases;
- poverty and unemployment;
- low educational attainment;
- substance abuse;
- crime;
- teen pregnancy



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Project LAUNCH (Linking Action with Unmet Need in Children's Health)

- **The goal:** for all children to reach physical, social, emotional, behavioral, *and*, cognitive milestones. Healthy growth in each of these areas prepares children to thrive in school and beyond.



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What is Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation?

- A systemic approach to building the capacity of early childhood professionals to promote young children's social-emotional and behavioral development.
- A mental health professional partners with the early childhood professional and models strategies that promote healthy social-emotional development and prevents the development of problematic behaviors

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Implementation

- Increase the use of mental health consultation in a variety of early childhood serving settings.
- Community capacity building
- Policy and systems development



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Mental Health Consultation in Child-Serving Settings

- Multiple-systems perspective
 - Policy and program
 - Staff Development
 - Client Assessment, Coordination & Referral
- Emphasis on Relationship
 - Parallel Process



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Community Capacity Building

- Mental Health Trainings
 - Coaching in to practice
- Pyramid Model of the Social-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning
- Infant Mental Health Certificate

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Policy and Systems Development

- Sustainability
- Young Star Rating Requirement
- Medicaid Reimbursement



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Outcomes

- Decreased provider/caregiver stress
- Improved relationship between family and provider/caregiver
- Increased cultural competency
- Decreased program attrition and child expulsion
- Increased collaboration among agencies, knowledge of community resources, and awareness of mental health referral options for children.

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Barriers

- Funding
- Agency and Provider/Caregiver Buy-In
- Time



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Lessons Learned



- ECMC is most effective as a primary prevention strategy
- Collaboration is key

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