

The Infant-Toddler Court Program

The Infant-Toddler Court Program (ITCP) aims to improve the health, safety, well-being and development of infants, toddlers, and families in the child welfare system, including those who have experienced or are at risk for significant maltreatment. The ITCP addresses gaps in evidence-based practice and systems coordination toward: 1) improving the response to very young children and families involved in, or at risk for involvement in, the child welfare system, and 2) promoting a community-driven, preventative approach to strengthening families, preventing child maltreatment, and advancing long-term health and development. The program uses two-generation, trauma-informed interventions that concurrently address the needs of parents and children and mitigate the multi-generational transmission of trauma.



HRSA's investment supports the implementation and quality improvement of infant-toddler court teams across the country -- public-private collaborations between local courts, community leaders, child and family advocates, child welfare and other government agencies, early care and education providers, private philanthropies, nonprofit and private service providers, and attorneys committed to improving the community's response to child abuse and neglect. The roles of infant-toddler court teams include:

- Providing case management and individualized family support to infants and toddlers with risks for, or current involvement in, the child welfare system,
- Serving as a lead "backbone" organization in the community to bring together service providers, family members, community representatives and other experts to address the specific needs of involved or at-risk families, and
- Acting as agents of change to strengthen and align the court, child welfare, health, early childhood, and community support systems to promote the health and well-being of infants and toddlers and their families at a population level.

HRSA awarded a three-year cooperative agreement to ZERO TO THREE in September 2018 to implement the program, at a level of \$3 million dollars for the first two years and up to \$10 million for FY 2020. Through a national resource center, the program currently provides intensive training and technical assistance (TA), implementation funds, and support for data-driven quality improvement and evaluation to infant-toddler court teams across ten implementation sites in six states (CT, FL, IA, MN, MS, and WA), as well as implementation TA to an additional 40 sites. Additional funding in FY 2020 will support an expansion of work across existing sites and additional outreach to new sites to start a court team.

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