



New York State Parenting Education Partnership: Request for Applications

COMMUNITY COALITIONS PROJECT November 2019

The New York State Parenting Education Partnership

The New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) is a statewide cross-systems initiative designed to ensure all children grow up in nurturing families, by enhancing parents' knowledge, skills and behavior. NYSPEP informs and supports close to 1,500 practitioners, program managers, researchers and policymakers to promote, provide and improve evidence-based parenting education. For more information about NYSPEP, [please check out our website!](#)

Parenting education¹ is a core component of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen family and community approaches to healthy child development and help prevent child abuse and neglect. When the rate of indicated reports of child abuse is as high as 45/1000 for children ages 0-17 years in some counties in NYS², the capacity of families to raise healthy children and the cost to the larger community must be considered a public health issue. Effective parenting education programs have been linked with better physical, cognitive and emotional development in children; increased parental knowledge of child development and parenting skills; improved parent-child communication; more effective parental monitoring and discipline; reduced youth substance abuse; and decreased rates of child abuse and neglect.

You can join this effort!

The New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) is accepting applications from local coalitions to strengthen community-based parenting education and to engage parents as well as professionals from multiple disciplines. We are looking for community coalitions that demonstrate leadership, commitment and determination to mobilize a broad movement to strengthen and support all parents' skills, knowledge, and talents. Up to four coalition sites will be selected to receive a 1-year award to receive training, technical assistance and a \$5000 grant to support community identified objectives.

1. Parenting education is a process for helping parents to understand children's development, needs and uniqueness, and their own parental roles and responsibilities by offering strategies, tools, and insight for observing, interpreting, and responding to children's behaviors in order to maximize positive outcomes for both children and families. Source: <http://pcav.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2Revised-March-2013VSPEC-Parent-Ed-intro-to-judges.pdf>
2. KWIC Indicator: Child Abuse/ Maltreatment – Children/ Youth in Indicated Reports of Abuse/ Maltreatment, 2016 Report. Source: http://www.nyskwic.org/get_data/indicator_profile.cfm?indicatorid=48&Go.x=14&Go=Go on November 21, 2018.

Community Coalition Project Goals:

1. Develop a concentrated, coordinated effort across New York State to strengthen the knowledge, skills and talents of all parents, to support healthy child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
2. Raise community commitment to promote safe, nurturing relationships and environments for children and families.
3. Establish community norms that support universal and quality parenting education.
4. Support Parenting Educators to develop skills and strategies to provide effective, evidence-based programming.
5. Engage family voice as the foundation for community coalition efforts to identify parenting education needs.

Eligible Applicants

Community coalitions that are working to enhance parenting skills and practice and that support families through the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework³ are encouraged to apply. NYSPEP is interested in coalitions that are multi-disciplinary and include parents and/or family representation. **It is expected that Parenting Educators and at least two parents will be involved in the coalition.** (Parents are defined for this grant as adults who are the primary custodial caregiver of children.)

The lead applicant must be a Not-for-Profit organization. The coalition can include a wide range of partners, such as, but not limited to: Community Action Agencies, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies and child care providers, libraries, school districts, Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations, health providers, county level services, and representatives from faith-based organizations. Applicants are encouraged to use strength-based approaches that focus on promotion and prevention services which strengthen families, rather than on crisis intervention and treatment services.

Description of Grant Activities

Community Coalitions selected are expected to participate in all of the NYSPEP activities described below.

A. *Professional development* – participate in a Protective Factors Framework overview; offer a regional Strong Roots one-day workshop; support and participate in NYSPEP webinars and the NYSPEP Training Institute; promote and support participation in NYSPEP Parenting Educator Credential; access and disseminate current activities, resources and research through the NYSPEP website and eNews. *Support for the profession of parenting education must include:*

- **Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework:** The five protective factors at the foundation of Strengthening Families are characteristics that have been shown to make positive outcomes more likely for young children and their families, and to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. NYSPEP will provide an overview of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework to recipients.

3. Download additional documentation about the Protective Factors at: [Core-Meanings-of-theProtective-Factors.pdf](#). View the NYSPEP webinar, "Understanding the Protective Factors Framework: Resources for Building a Toolbox and Strengthening Families" at: www.nyspep.org/webinars

- **Strong Roots training day:** This one-day training event should emphasize a topic to strengthen parenting educators' practice and offer a range of evidence-based parenting approaches. This event should align with the Parenting Educator Credential competencies and will be planned with support from the NYSPEP Professional Development workgroup and with representatives of the community coalitions recognized as co-sponsors.
- **Webinars:** These training opportunities offered by NYSPEP build on the theme of the Strong Roots events and will be based on evidence from research and consistent with the NYS Parenting Educator Credential. The topics will be guided by input from parent and community coalitions and from information gathered during Community Cafés (described below).
- **Training Institute:** Designed to promote research-to-practice and emerging issues for parenting education practitioners, this one-day event will be organized by the NYSPEP leadership with input from the leads of the community coalitions to engage parenting educators, parent partners, and leaders of parent organizations. At least one member of the coalition is required to attend the training institute. This event will be additionally supported through NYSPEP.
- **Parenting Educator Credential:** The work to strengthen and promote the NYSPEP Parenting Educator Credential will remain the responsibility of the NYSPEP Credential Work Group and the NYSPEP Leadership. Community Coalitions will disseminate information about the Parenting Educator Credential and encourage parenting educators to seek the credential.
- **NYSPEP.ORG website and monthly eNews:** NYSPEP promotes best practices and programs and provides current resource information for parent educators and other service providers through the NYSPEP website, that includes an event calendar, and publication of the monthly NYSPEP eNews. These features make communication with parenting educators easier to maintain and promote. Community Coalitions are encouraged to contribute to and disseminate the eNews to their partners and mailing lists.

B. *Parent-partner leadership and community development* – conduct an environmental scan of existing parenting education programs in the community; conduct/provide Community Café training and assistance; support parent involvement in coalition meetings and trainings with mileage reimbursement and stipends/incentives for families to attend meetings.

Outreach to community and parent/family partners will be developed, strengthened and expanded by focusing on:

- **Environmental scan of parenting education programs:** An environmental scan is the process of assessing your current community of parenting education programs, how they are connected to each other, how programs are funded and considering opportunities for partnership. Community Coalitions will implement a community scan which will identify current resources in the community as well as gaps. The results of the scan will be shared with NYSPEP.

- **Community Cafés:**
 - The Café process begins with a one-day Orientation session held for parents and community-based organization staff to prepare them to implement the model;
 - Following the Orientation, community coalition staff will partner with parent leaders to organize Café Conversations (**at least 5 in the same community**) for parents and other community leaders to discuss shared concerns. This series of guided conversations will be based on the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework;
 - Reports of the meetings, known as “harvests,” will inform community responsiveness and be shared with NYSPEP to influence state led initiatives.
- **Support parent participation:** NYSPEP encourages parent engagement in Community Coalition meetings and in Community Café training. To support parent engagement, NYSPEP allocates funds for parents to alleviate the costs of travel and child care. NYSPEP encourages parents to attend Community Café certification opportunities.

C. *Increase access to quality parenting education* - contribute to the expansion and promotion of NYSPEP searchable database of available parenting education in each county; promote the New Parent Guide and New Parent Guide website; promote other parenting education resources. *Provide quality parenting education to families in a responsive environment through:*

- **Community grants:** The grant of \$5000 is intended to increase parenting education opportunities for parents in high need areas. Parents are expected to be included in designing these community-based programs that offer high quality, responsive parenting education, address barriers to parenting education (such as implicit bias, and quality child care, accessible locations and times) and support the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework. Allowable expenses are detailed below. proposed budgets will be reviewed by NYSPEP;
- **Searchable database for parenting support services:** This resource of over 4500 programs is searchable by county location, type of parenting education/support sought. Representative parents from the selected community coalitions will be invited to advise on the usefulness of this database and steps to improve it. Coalitions will contribute community specific resources, including current parenting education opportunities, to the searchable database on the NYSPEP website and will promote the use of the database in their communities;
- **Promote quality parenting education resources:**
 - Disseminate *The New Parent Guide: Starting Life Together*, and the companion website www.nysparentguide.org. Both resources for expectant and new parents, will be promoted and distributed to the Community Team.
 - Disseminate other materials and messages from NYSPEP and NYSPEP website.

D. *Administrative activities* - project oversight to strengthen the quality of parenting education with significant input from family and community partners. Administration will contribute by providing leadership in gathering and organizing data about the parent education system; being responsible for grant reporting and fund management to NYSPEP and agree to share NYSPEP resources and training opportunities. *Administrative activities include:*

- Develop an action plan for the implementation of grant activities and use of funds.
- Maintain updated environmental scan of parenting education programs.
- Participate in monthly one hour learning collaborative conference call with other Community Coalition communities.
- Submit mid-year summary progress, year-end summary reports and financial summary.
- Assume fiscal responsibility for grant fund and support for parent participation in related activities. **(See below for required deliverables and allowable expenses).**
- Provide Inventory for 10 families utilizing the Protective Factors Family Assessment Tool.
- Share NYSPEP materials and messages from Professional Development webinar opportunities, ENews, etc., with community network.
- Select and support representatives, including parents and parenting educators, from the coalition to attend NYSPEP's annual Training Institute.

Assistance provided by NYSPEP

1. NYSPEP Steering Committee and Workgroup members will offer professional expertise, organizational support and access to a network of providers to assist the selected community coalitions in meeting their project goals. Members will also be available as mentors.
2. NYSPEP project staff will offer ongoing technical support, guidance and oversight on project start up and development needs as identified in partnership with the local community leaders (e.g., community development efforts, partner identification and recruitment). Specific areas of support may include:
 - Assistance with the development of an action plan and budget for the implementation of grant activities;
 - Facilitation of on-site partner meetings.
3. NYSPEP will facilitate peer support through a community coalition learning collaborative. This will include monthly networking calls with the funded community coalitions.
4. Provide a 2-hour overview of the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors framework for coalition members.
5. Provide training and technical support for Community Cafés.
6. Provide guidance for other project related activities.
7. Provide guidance on the distribution of NYSPEP and other parenting education resources.
8. NYSPEP will support community coalition activities including strong roots training and community cafes as needed.
9. NYSPEP will make additional funds available upon request that will support parent stipends and travel to meetings, including Cafes, as well as travel reimbursement up to \$200 for representatives (up to 3) to attend the annual Training Institute.

Required deliverables and allowable expenses:

1. Reports:
 - a. An environmental scan of parenting education programs in the first 6 weeks of the project.
 - b. A proposed action plan developed as a coalition document within the first two months of the project consistent with the goals in the proposal.
 - c. Submit a mid-year and end of year progress report. Specific dates and format will be provided by NYSPEP staff.

- d. Contribute to the monthly learning collaboratives.
2. Activities:
 - a. Engage parent representatives, parenting educators and other community partners in coalition meetings and planning.
 - b. Host a two-hour overview of the Protective Factors Framework as a community building activity.
 - c. In coordination with the Community Cafes technical assistant provided by NYSPEP, plan dates for the Cafe Orientation and implementation, including a minimum of five (5) Cafe sessions in the targeted community.
 - d. In partnership with the NYSPEP Program Committee, plan and implement a one-day Strong Roots training as described above.
 - e. Participate in the Annual NYSPEP Training Institute.
 - f. Support and share NYSPEP resources such as the Parenting Educator Credential, the E-news, website, New Parent Guide and other supports for practicing professionals and families.
3. Allowable expenses: The \$5,000 grant is intended to support initiatives that increase access to quality Parenting Education and may be used for the following:
 - a. To increase parenting education opportunities for parents in high need areas and address barriers to participation.
 - b. Support the one-day Strong Roots event: rent for space, materials, honoraria, travel for speakers.
 - c. Support hosting Community Cafes, including needed supplies and materials.
 - d. Up to fifteen percent of funds (or \$750) may be used to offset administrative activities.

Selection Criteria:

NYSPEP is seeking community coalition applicants that exhibit the following:

- A commitment to quality parenting education as demonstrated by:
 - Enhancing the social-emotional development of children and families and the primary prevention of child abuse.
 - Implementing a strategy consistent with the Protective Factors Framework to promote public understanding and professional development.
 - Improving and strengthening opportunities for parenting education (these efforts may address ages birth to 17 years).
 - Using proven strategies that identify and integrate existing resources to strengthen the skills, knowledge and talents of all parents.
 - Promoting community's readiness to support families (building coalitions for safe, stable, nurturing communities).
- Evidence of commitment to community-based initiatives that are inclusive and represent the population being served. Coalitions must identify their partners, describe their history of working together as a coalition, their efforts to engage multiple community partners and the use of "shared decision making" (meaning a process of partnership of shared views and actions towards shared goals).
- Efforts to and/or success in the support of family involvement as the foundation for quality parent education by incorporating parent voice in education, health, and social systems. Coalitions must identify at least two parents (in parent role) who will be included as engaged members of the collaboration.
- Commitment to the professional development of parenting educators as demonstrated by support of training for parenting educators, use of credentialed parenting educators, use of evidenced-based parenting education practices, and involvement of parenting educators as active members of the coalition.

Application Deadline: January 17, 2020
Grant Announcement: February 3, 2020

How to submit the application:

The New York State Parenting Education Partnership Application is accepted via Word Document. Please type in your responses to the questions and email the application to NYSPEP by email to nyspep@nyspep.org

Questions:

If you have questions regarding the application or NYSPEP, please contact **Alissa Abbott at (518) 880- 3587 or email to: aabbott@preventchildabuseny.org**

For more information on NYSPEP, please visit our website at:
<http://nyspep.org/>