



Washington State, in partnership with the Casey Family Foundation, has designed a coordinated effort to prevent and mitigate the influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on child development, family functioning, and community well-being.

The Washington State Adverse Childhood Experiences Public-Private Initiative (APPI) is a carefully designed set of organizational partnerships aligning community-based approaches to preventing and mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

» **APPI approaches prevention and mitigation of ACEs through a focus on individual, family, community, system, and cost reduction change.**

Main Evaluation Research Question:

Can a multi-faceted, scalable, community-based strategy that focuses on preventing or mitigating ACEs succeed in producing a wide array of positive outcomes, including reduced reports of child maltreatment and improvements in child development outcomes?

Hypotheses

Through a multidisciplinary, cross-sector collaboration with a scientific approach, flexible funding, and strong evaluation concerning diverse resources affecting children, family, and the community, the APPI hypothesizes improvements at the following levels:

Individual Level:

Meaningful assessments linking individuals to services fitting individual needs; positive changes in knowledge, skills, attitude, or behavior related to the long-term goal of preventing or moderating accumulation of ACEs.

- o *Did program make a difference in children's lives?*

Family Level:

Meaningful assessments linking individual families to services fitting individual family needs; positive changes in knowledge, skills, attitude, or behavior related to the long-term goal of preventing or moderating accumulation of ACEs.

- o *Did risk decrease? Did protective factors increase?*

Community Level:

Positively influencing norms for healthy development

- o *Is a larger circle of people engaged with efforts to prevent or moderate ACE effects?*

Systems Level:

Increased short and long-term community awareness of ACEs and use of ACEs to inform service providers, policy makers, organizations, and communities.

Cost Avoidance or Cost Savings Level:

Early identification and intervention reduces costs of later remediation.



Participants

APPI selects organizations to participate as community partners based on

- History of successful community building efforts
- Use of evidence-based strategies and services
- Strong community-based efforts across a range of sectors
- Commitment to use data to inform and improve practice
- Types of ACE mitigation or prevention strategy

Community partners are expected to

- Focus on child abuse and neglect related ACEs as well as family functioning ACEs; participating community partners must target at least 1 child abuse or neglect ACE. A program must articulate how it responds to one or more child abuse or neglect related ACE.
- Collaborate with State Department of Social and Health Services and Children's Administration office,
- Designate a representative to join the evaluation team,
- Participate in learning community to exchange information and develop the strongest strategies about ACEs prevention and mitigation,
- Assist in data collection,
- Sustain initiatives described in community's proposal.

In Washington, community partners receive a \$25,000 yearly stipend to support their participation. These funds are intended to defer costs related to partner evaluation efforts.

Methods

Design

APPI employs a longitudinal interrupted time-series research design with retrospective baseline data. This means:

- Measures many outcome indicators over time
- Utilizes community partners' past data on outcome indicators to form a baseline, as opposed to collecting data independently based on pre- and post- tests,
- Highlights outcome indicators over time through proximal outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and distal outcomes.

Evaluation Foundations

APPI prescribes evaluation with the following characteristics and strategies:

1. Begin with a theory of change and program-level logic models
2. Maintain detailed timelines and narratives about what has occurred in communities regarding key ACEs over time.
3. Collect process and quality assurance data
4. Outcome benchmark with a similar community as well as with the community's own historic patterns.
5. Collect baseline data on different indicators related to child and family well-being as well as ACE-related indicators from community or state
 - a. i.e. child maltreatment reports, foster care replacements, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, education data, US Census, etc.
6. Qualitative data collected through focus groups and interviews

SOURCES:

Adams, K. et al. (2012, November 14). Washington State ACEs Public Private Initiative

Pecora, P., et al. (2013, June 24). Washington State ACEs Public Private Initiative

ACEs Public-Private Initiative website: www.appi-wa.org

Thrive By Five website: thrivebyfivewa.org/wp-content/uploads/APPI-TOC-1.0_summary.pdf