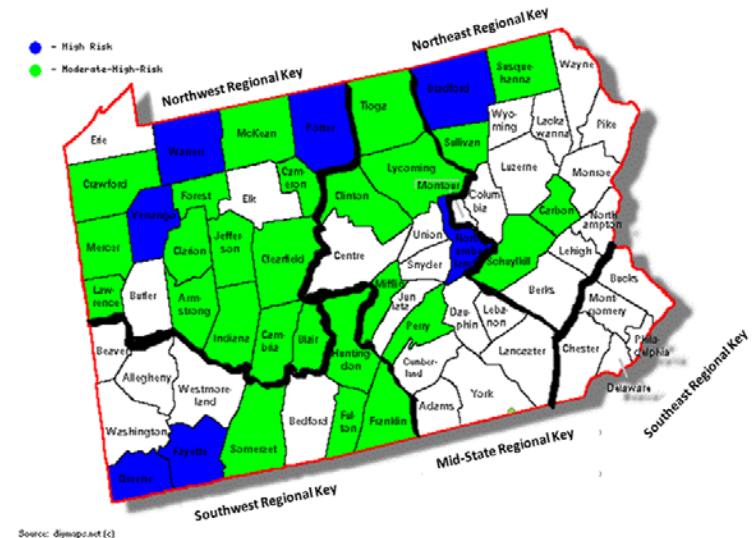




Rural Recruitment Efforts Start Up TA and Peer Mentoring

Race to The Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant

- As part of the Race to the Top (RTT)-Early Learning Challenge Grant, Keystone STARS targeted 33 counties that are identified as Moderate-High Risk or High Risk, as defined in the 2012/2013 Reach and Risk Report.
- Counties considered Moderate-High Risk or High Risk because the identified county lacks high quality child care options.



REACH AND RISK REPORT



- Information on the level of risk for school failure for children (based on 16 risk factors) and the availability, or reach, of most OCDEL programs to children in each county and school district in Pennsylvania.

RISK AND REACH FACTORS

RISK

- Economic Risk
- Maternal Risk
- Birth Outcome Risk
- Academic Risk
- Toxic Stress

REACH

- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parent-Child Home Program
- Healthy Families America
- Keystone STARS
- Parents as Teachers
- Head Start State and Federal
- Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts
- School Based Pre-K
- Early Intervention



Reach and Risk 2012-2013 Sample Findings

Risk

- Children are at risk of school failure throughout the state. Based on the calculation of each county's Average Risk Level, of the 67 counties, children in 35 counties (52 percent) are at moderate-high or high risk of school failure



Reach

- More than one-third (34 percent) of children under age five participate in state and/or federally funded quality ECE programs in Pennsylvania.
- Across Pennsylvania, the three programs which impact the most children are Keystone STARS, Early Intervention and Head Start.

Start Up TA Peer Mentor

- Matched by “likeness” to their mentee
- Assisting in PD Registry enrollment, business practices, child care certification process, zoning, and completing the STARS enrollment
- Peer Mentors:
 - Current director or family owner-operator - STAR 2, 3 or 4 level
 - Professional Development (PD) history demonstrating knowledge and experience
 - Completed Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) in the PD Registry, including attainment of credentials specific to their STAR rating.
 - Recommendation by their STARS Specialist.



Rural Recruitment Efforts – Keystone STARS Goals

- To expand Keystone STARS to include other types of early learning programs serving children birth through Pre K
- To expand regulated, quality childcare by 200 programs to address childcare service needs in high risk and moderate high risk, rural counties



The Child Care Capacity Awards for Rural Child Care Expansion

- Non-regulated child care programs (e.g. Relative Neighbor Care programs) seeking to become a DHS regulated program
- Current regulated programs looking to open a new facility in the targeted rural counties.
 - Targeted mini grants
 - Establishing provider agreements between OCDEL's Child Care Works (subsidy)
 - Enrolling the program into Keystone STARS and achieving at least STAR 1
 - Connecting programs to Departments of Community and Economic Development, State, Revenue, and local resources

The Child Care Capacity Awards for Rural Child Care Expansion

- Eligibility requirements
 - Be a new location regulated by DHS
 - Enrolled in STARS
 - Achieved at least a STAR 1 designation
 - Completed an Enrollment Calculation Tool
 - Established a provider agreement with OCDEL's Child Care Works to serve subsidy eligible children/families



Additional Reach and Risk Data Usage

- Track progress in reaching all children who can benefit most from early education
- Help communities better understand their ECE programming needs, particularly in counties where there are high risks
- Inform future decisions regarding ECE policies and practices



Successes and Lessons Learned

