



## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

### *Planning Year Profile*

Grant Period: 2019-2024

### ACENDA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT NJ

**LEAD AGENCY:** Acenda, Inc.

**TARGET SERVICE AREA:** Atlantic, Cape, May, and Ocean Counties

**LOCATION:** Glassboro, NJ

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION:** 2

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SERVED:** NJ-002

### BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Acenda Regional Partnership Grant project proposes to address the system fragmentation that exists for families involved with child welfare services and who also have substance use and co-occurring disorders. The RPG initiative proposes to accomplish this by: 1) *Engaging* and proactively identifying families and children who require additional coordination and supports due to substance use disorder (SUD) by working closely with the Family Courts and the Division of Child Protection and Permanency; 2) *Expanding* access to family-centered recovery support as well as treatment for parents/caregivers with SUD, including linkage to/engagement in social services; and 3) *Enhancing* the delivery of coordinated services to this population by augmenting the existing system of care with inter-agency training, peer recovery support services, referral connections, and access to relapse prevention and recovery groups.

**TARGET POPULATION:** Families with children age 0-18 residing in Cape May, Atlantic, and Ocean Counties who may have existing or potential involvement within the child welfare system due to high risk of maltreatment, abuse, and/or neglect due to parents/caregiver SUD and/or co-occurring mental health disorders.

**PROJECTED NUMBERS SERVED:** The project intends to serve 775 parents per implementation year for a total of 2,325 parents.

### MAJOR PROGRAM GOALS

- GOAL 1:** Enhance the well-being of children, parents, and families enrolled in the RPG project (i.e., receiving services or taking part in activities conducted with funds provided under the grant).
- GOAL 2:** Improve and maintain safe and permanent caregiving relationships by enhancing parents' ability to care for their children.
- GOAL 3:** Improve substance use treatment outcomes for parents through family-centered approaches.
- GOAL 4:** Facilitate the identification and delivery of prevention services and programs under the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018.
- GOAL 5:** Decrease the number of children who are at risk of out-of-home placement.
- GOAL 6:** Increase the reunification rates for children who have been placed in out-of-home care.

### KEY PROGRAM SERVICES

- Intensive/Coordinated Case Management
- Triple P
- Wraparound/Intensive In-Home Services
- Functional Family Therapy

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Intensive/Non-Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Motivational Interviewing
- Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- Peer Resource Specialists
- Trauma Screening
- Mental Health Counseling
- Housing Assistance – Emergency Shelter, Transitional, Interim and Temporary
- Keeping Families Together
- Family Preservation Services
- Cross-systems Clinical Training: substance use, child welfare and related clinical issues

### **EXISTING OR PROPOSED PARTNERS**

- Youth Advocate Programs
- Public Health Agency
- Family Courts
- Local Law Enforcement
- State Mental Health – Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- New Jersey Child and Family Services Agency – Department of Children and Families
- Mental Health Service Provider
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Adult Health Service Provider (Hospital)
- Children’s Health Service Provider
- New Jersey/County Housing Agency
- Housing/Homeless Service Provider
- County/Regional School District
- Parenting Education/Service Provider
- State/County Employment Agency
- Home Visiting Agency/Service Provider

### **EVALUATION DESIGN**

The grantee’s local evaluation proposes two components: an impact study and an implementation study. The grantee is also participating in the RPG cross-site evaluation studies of family and child outcomes, program implementation, and collaboration among RPG grantees and partners.

#### **IMPACT STUDY DESIGN**

The grantee proposes to use a quasi-experimental design (QED) to test the impact of their services among families who interact with the child welfare system due to a parent’s substance use disorder. Members of the program group will receive referrals to substance use and mental health treatment, recovery supports, parenting capacity/family functioning interventions, and peer recovery support. Members of the comparison group will receive business-as-usual services in the community. The QED study proposes to include up to 3,540 families, with 1,770 in the program group and up to 1,770 in the comparison group. The grantee proposes to examine impacts in two domains: safety and permanency. In addition, the grantee proposes to examine outcomes in child well-being, recovery, and family functioning domains for a subset of families in the program group.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION STUDY DESIGN**

In the implementation study, the grantee proposes to examine interagency collaboration, fidelity to the service model, and family and staff perceptions of their experiences in the program.

**This grantee profile is supported by the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families Children’s Bureau, under contract HHSS270201700001C. This content represents the work of The Center for Children and Family Futures, and does not reflect the opinions of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families**