



## **PHILADELPHIA HEALTH PARTNERSHIP DESIGNATES FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE LAUNCH OF TWO NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

*Foundation grants further mission to improve health and well-being in Philadelphia*

**Philadelphia, PA** (September 8, 2022) – Philadelphia Health Partnership (PHP) announces its support of two new programs focused on the health and well-being of young children and their parents and caregivers.

PHP awarded a three-year \$248,281 grant to [PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia \(CHOP\)](#) to help fund local implementation of [HealthySteps](#), a program of [ZERO TO THREE](#). PHP’s grant will support a HealthySteps pilot in West Philadelphia at the [CHOP Primary Care location in Cobbs Creek](#), which will join a national network of HealthySteps sites working to transform pediatric care by promoting nurturing parenting and healthy development for babies and toddlers so they are prepared for school and life. The pilot will serve a patient population of almost 3,000 children from birth to age three of which approximately 80 percent are covered by public health insurance and more than 90 percent are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.

The goal of the HealthySteps pilot is to improve child and family outcomes through early identification of needs, improved service accessibility, and enhanced family engagement and support. Concurrent with pilot implementation, PolicyLab will advocate for policy and systems changes at the local and state levels to advance reimbursement and payment reforms for integrated behavioral health services in pediatric primary care and to establish sustainability pathways for HealthySteps in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.

The second new program funded by PHP was made through a two-year \$100,000 grant to the [Bread & Roses Community Fund](#) to develop and implement the Early Childhood Parent and Caregiver Organizing Fund. Using a participatory grantmaking approach, the new Fund will engage community members to allocate resources in support of early childhood organizing, advocacy, and community action focused on the issues that parents and caregivers themselves identify and prioritize.

[Vanguard Strong Start for Kids](#) will also support the Early Childhood Parent and Caregiver Organizing Fund through their collaboration with [Start Early](#) on [family-centered design](#).

“Amplifying parent and caregiver voice and leadership to address racial, social, and economic disparities in early childhood programs, policies, and systems is at the heart of the new Fund’s purpose,” said Ann Marie Healy, Executive Director of Philadelphia Health Partnership.

“Ensuring the people who are most affected by these disparities have resources to mobilize change is central to PHP’s approach.”

The grants are part of PHP's strategic initiative on early childhood health and development, which promotes the optimal physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development of children from prenatal to age five.

"Our long-term commitment to supporting the positive relationships and early experiences that set young children on the pathway to lifelong health and well-being is one of our top priorities today," said Loree D. Jones-Brown, Board Chair of Philadelphia Health Partnership. "The Foundation has been focused on improving equity in health in Philadelphia for 25 years now, and we're proud of our many contributions to the residents of the city."

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