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PARENT INFORMATION CENTER OF DELAWARE AWARDS TWO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS \$25,000 THROUGH THE FAMILY SHADE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM.

WILMINGTON, DE (April 17, 2022) The Parent Information Center of Delaware announced the recipients of the Statewide Family Shade Mini-Grant Program for 2022-2023.

From Meedra Surratte, PIC Executive Director, *“This is an amazing opportunity to partner with our state in supporting innovative strategies that support children and youth with special healthcare needs, (CYSHCN). So often, the community organizations who have direct access and greatest impact in our communities, do not have the resources, financial or otherwise, to respond to the needs of the communities they serve. This mini grant process is one way we’re able to support the organizations and communities facing the most significant barriers to accessing care and support. More importantly, the technical assistance provided to the grantees and learning communities, allow for meaningful family engagement, capacity building and sustainability in programs serving CYSHCN.”*

The aim of the Family SHADE (Support Healthcare Alliance Delaware) mini-grant program is to build state and local capacity and test small-scale innovative strategies to improve the overall systems of care for youth with special health care needs, and their families. The Parent Information Center of Delaware manages the mini-grant program, made possible by the Delaware Division of Public Health.

The 2022-2023 mini-grant recipients are:

Jay's House was established in 2017 to assist families of children with Autism in New Castle County with resources in the community to assist with providing a better quality of life for all family members. Jay's House mission is to provide support to children and families affected by autism. The vision of Jay's House is to equip children on the spectrum and their families with the tools necessary to be successful, prosperous, equally valued and accepted members of their communities.

Tomaro’s CHANGE is a nonprofit organization that was established in October 2009. Prior to providing therapy services to youth and families, the organization provided charity services to teens and adolescents who had low or no income. Some of the services included parent/child relationship building, supplying basic needs such as hygiene products, clothes/shoes, cribs, car seats, etc. Over the years, the organization’s mission grew into providing holistic care to youth and families, particularly those who are uninsured or underinsured.

The two agencies were selected by a diverse team of community reviewers to receive the funding. Each recipient was required to address one of the Title V National Performance Measure priority areas in their mini-grant applications. These areas are:

- Increase the percentage of children with and without special health care needs who are adequately insured
- Ensure youth with special health care needs receive the services necessary to make transitions to adult healthcare
- Children with and without special healthcare needs have a medical home
- Children receive developmentally appropriate services in a well-coordinated early childhood system

Mini-grant recipients are required to submit monthly reporting, attend technical assistance workshops, and to participate in the Family Shade monthly Learning Communities.



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Jay's House, which provides support and resources to families with Autism in New Castle County, is being awarded \$25000 to expand the reach of their birth through 18 programming and support services of family and youth with Autism and special health care needs.

Tomaro's C.H.A.N.G.E, a Claymont nonprofit that provides therapy services to youth and families is being awarded 25000 to provide free services to youth and families and expand the opportunity for youth to not only learn basic techniques of mindfulness through a five-week program youth grow comfortable practicing mindfulness and rather than doing so occasionally, they will begin to utilize the technique daily.

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About the Parent Information Center of Delaware (PIC)

PIC's work reflects our commitment to improve health and educational outcomes for children by empowering their families and the professionals who serve them. Annually, PIC serves thousands of parents and professionals statewide to meet our mission and improve outcomes for children. For more information about the Parent Information Center visit www.picofdel.org.



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