WHAT WE KNOW

Disparities are Widening

• Our most vulnerable children, youth, families, and communities are being disproportionately affected.
• Communities of color, specifically Black and African American communities, are more likely to contract coronavirus and more likely to die from it.
• Currently 45% percent of COVID-19 cases in Rhode Island are Latino.
• Latino households are seeing 16% more pay cuts and job losses than any other demographic.
• Several states, including Rhode Island, are seeing increases in child abuse, domestic violence, and suicide attempts as reported by public systems.
• School closures have drastically slashed student and family access to behavioral health and clinical supports.

CYC’S RESPONSE

Community Needs and Priorities

Now more than ever, we need to rely on evidence - evidence that is informed and prioritized by the lived experiences of residents. During this time, we are prioritizing our historical and ongoing work of collecting data and supporting resident priorities and the key issues affecting their communities.

• High rates of anxiety and depression
• The desire for increased social cohesion
• Few opportunities for pro-social involvement
• Low attachment to school
• The desire for increased family management and cohesion
• Significant levels of trauma and associated symptoms
Right Now
While in-person programs and services have been put on hold temporarily, the need and requests for behavioral health supports is growing exponentially. In response, the CYC has moved quickly to:

- Connect children and youth who were receiving school-based clinical services to TeleHealth services. Currently more than 300 students are seeing a clinician regularly via TeleHealth.
- Ensure that families and caregivers of the children and youth receiving TeleHealth services have equal access to clinical services themselves, when requested.
- Provide tools and technical assistance for communities to implement school-based behavioral health services through TeleHealth, including guidance on the widening of Medicaid to finance these supports.

In the Immediate Future
CYC is once again prepared, well positioned, and ready to deploy evidence based strategies and interventions in support of Rhode Island’s most vulnerable children, youth, families, and communities. These action plans include:

- Evaluate the results of TeleHealth services to see if it is a more flexible and successful option for some individuals, continue to improve systems, and scale participation. Increase the number of children and youth served from 300 to 500.
- Provide immediate access to Familias Unidas for Latino immigrant families as early as summer 2020.
- Provide immediate access to Strong African American Families as early as summer 2020.
- Provide immediate access to CBITS trauma therapy groups to 5th grade - 8th grade students starting with the reopening of schools in 2020.
- Prior to the opening of school, make available Dr. Richard Booth’s newly added trauma systems workshop “Behavioral Health Strategies and Returning to the Classroom”.

CYC remains dedicated to providing relevant evidence-based interventions where they matter most and in the most widely accessible manner.

OUR TRACK RECORD OF RESULTS AT A GLANCE

79% of the participants in our Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools program show a reduction in PTSD symptoms.

30% of participants in our Strong African American Families program report improved emotional regulation when parenting.

82% of participants in our Familias Unidas program for Spanish-speaking immigrant youth and their families report that their adolescents’ behavioral health issues are better or much better.

Educators who have participated in one or more of our Trauma Training modules report more empathy for students’ experiences, greater understanding of the impact of trauma in the classroom, improved capacity for self-care and application of skills to de-escalate and better support traumatized students.

For More Information
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