



Quality Improvement

The Quality Improvements program provides training and assistance to home-based child care providers and caregivers, child care centers and early care programs in one of Atlanta's most impoverished communities.

THE ISSUE

Research confirms that the quality of early care children receive dramatically affects their physical, mental and academic development. One of the most impoverished communities in Atlanta, identified as the Atlanta Promise Neighborhood (APN), is suffering from generational poverty, requiring the cultivation of consistent relationships to build trust and address concerns with appropriate educational strategies and the layering of resources, including quality early care and education.

UNITED WAY'S ROLE

United Way operates and manages a layer of early care resources and intervention in one of the most impoverished communities in Atlanta to support the children within. The Quality Improvements program provides training and technical assistance (T&TA) to home-based child care providers; child care centers and other early care programs, such as Head Start; and family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. Because this community suffers from generational poverty, consistent relationships need to be cultivated to build trust and address concerns with appropriate educational strategies and the layering of resources, including quality early care and education. July 2015 marked the start of the fourth year of targeted T&TA interventions in the APN.

THE RESULTS

Strong relationships have been developed with one of the most challenging group of early care providers, the family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers, with seven FFNs becoming licensed family child care homes and five receiving Quality Rated status. In addition, four different 120-hour professional development Child Development Associate (CDA) courses were offered collaboratively to 76 participants with an 83 percent completion, while 25 Quality Time professional development workshops were offered to FFNs and three Super Saturday mini conferences attracted 90 participants.



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