Families Forward Philadelphia & Early Childhood Education

SADIE SPRAGUE-LOTT
I was born and raised in Philadelphia and a product of public education for my K-12 learning. I got involved in education equity work when the largest budget cuts to date hit the district in 2013 when I was in high school. I then went to Wesleyan University where I studied Sociology and African American Studies. After graduating I continued my work with education in nonprofits in Philadelphia and a year of service with City Year in a 9th-grade English classroom in Kensington. Following this, I joined Families Forward Philadelphia where I am now the Education Manager.
Who We Serve

Race of Kids 0-5

- Black, African American, or African: 88.7%
- White: 5.7%
- Multi-Racial: 5.7%

Number of Kids 0-5

- July 2019-June 2020: 300
- July 2020-June 2021: 200
- July 2021-June 2022: 100
STEP 1
Families enter and are given resources and information on what is available to them in the Education Department.

STEP 2
Education Coordinator, case manager and family work to establish goals for their time with FFP.

STEP 3
Enrollments, referrals, and outreach to outside organizations are completed.

STEP 4
Throughout their time with FFP participants join activities and have a minimum of monthly check-ins with the Education Coordinator and bi-weekly check-ins with the Case Manager.
Working Alongside Participants

Participant A

- Participant has three kids under five whom all enter with no current childcare implemented.
- One child entered a School District PreK Program and the other two apply for subsidized childcare

Participant B

- Participant has one child under 3 and is in need of specialized childcare for her daughter.
- After enrollment participant had concerns about her daughter's ability to stay in school even with the proper resources given to her.
Programs & Partnerships

- Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention
- BELL/PEC
- CHOP Karabots Early Head Start
- School District of Philadelphia PreK Program
- Read by 4th
How do we create substantial changes for families with children 0-5 who are unhoused?
"The goal of the education program for the next 6 months is to focus on strategic ways to **expand services to participants** and connections with outside organizations that will encourage the development and growth of programming. The focus is on **how we use wrap-around services, such as education, to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.** Using education to enact **agency and autonomy** in the lives of participants will be a crucial part of the education department's mission. The objective will be to ensure that every family member that touches our program has access to **quality education programs** while with us which allows them to continue to have better opportunities following their time with FFP.

Centered in this mission is the “**belief in the power of young people.**” That is why this six-month plan will heavily focus on programs and initiatives for young people. In addition to this, it will work to expand teen programming, and early childhood education resources."
Thank you!