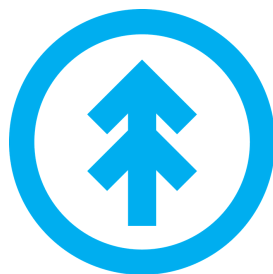
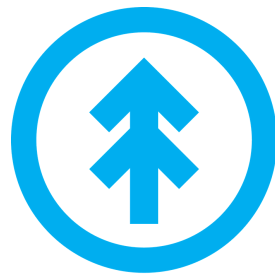


# IMPACT REPORT FY 2021



**The  
Family  
Tree**

Raising families up.



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We are proud to share with you our most notable accomplishments for FY2021. Although a year into the thick of the pandemic, but with some light at the end of tunnel, we worked creatively with the community and our partners to reach a record setting 30,000 people. Of course, none of this could have been possible without your unflagging support. We remain both proud and deeply grateful.

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[familytreemd.org](http://familytreemd.org)

## IMPACT REPORT FY 2021

### Investing in Children, Prenatal through Early Childhood

Our **Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center (BCCCRC)** provided training, technical assistance, and support to over 2,290 early care and education providers in Baltimore City.

- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation services were provided to 29 Baltimore City children in child care. The program also provided consultation services to 18 child care providers who were struggling with the behavioral management of a child or children in their care.
- The Maryland Family Care Boost Project got off the ground in March with 20 family child care providers committing to an 18-month project that will help them establish a business model of practice so they can be financially more strong and stable.
- BCCCRC continued to provide virtual training and support to 11 family child care providers in a 15-month program that is designed to help them earn a highly recognized credential in the industry, the Child Care Development Associate (CDA). The current cohort of 11 will finish all the requirements in order to take the CDA exam this summer.

**Family Connects Maryland (FCM)** provided 1 to 3 virtual home visits to 285 new Baltimore City mothers delivering at Sinai Hospital. In December, we also began offering FCM services to Baltimore County mothers in select zip codes, successfully enrolling a total of 65 mothers.

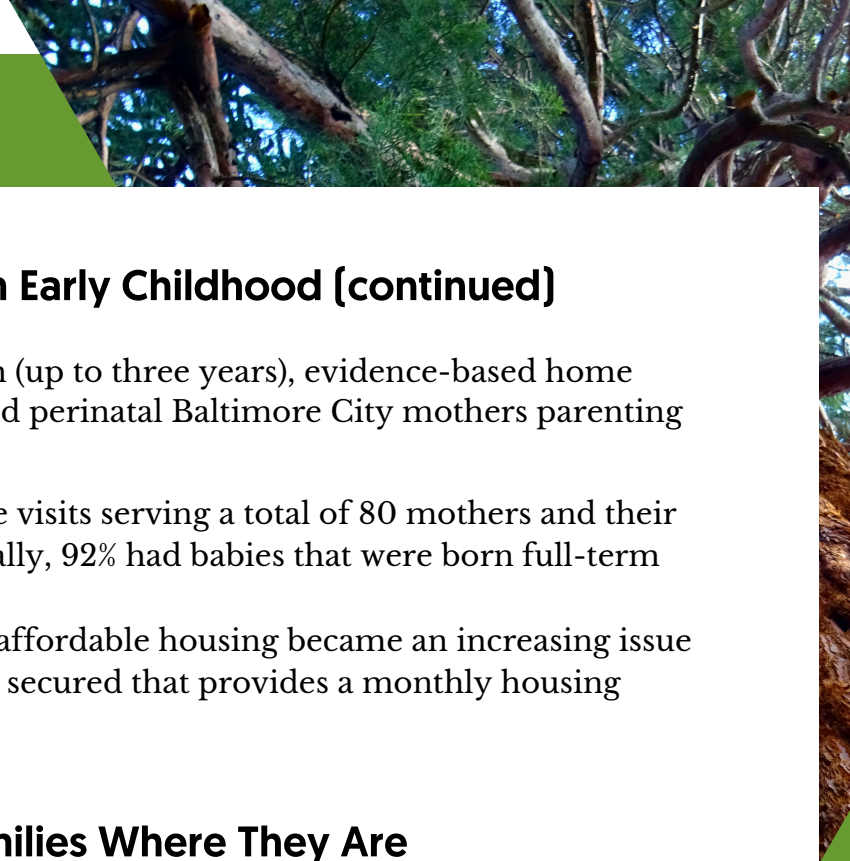
The Baltimore Babies Project is the evaluation component of FCM. The study was designed by Professor Lisa Berlin, PhD at the University of Maryland School of Social Work utilizing a randomized controlled trial. The study period was from July 15, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Almost all of the 6-month post birth follow-up home visit interviews were conducted virtually due to the pandemic. The analysis of the demographic data did not reveal any significant difference between the two groups. Comparisons revealed a small number of positive group differences between families who completed the home visiting program compared to those families who did not receive the service. Specifically, of the families who received FCM services:

- infants had fewer pediatric/clinic visits for an illness, injury or emergency;
- mothers had fewer medical/clinic visits for an illness, injury or emergency; and,
- infants were more likely to be read to.

These positive outcomes for moms/infants are aligned with previous randomized controlled trials conducted by Duke University.



## IMPACT REPORT FY 2021



### **Investing in Children, Prenatal through Early Childhood (continued)**

**Healthy Families America (HFA)** is a long term (up to three years), evidence-based home visiting program that offers eligible prenatal and perinatal Baltimore City mothers parenting education and support services in their home.

- Healthy Families staff conducted 1,015 home visits serving a total of 80 mothers and their new babies. Of the mothers enrolled prenatally, 92% had babies that were born full-term and 97% were developmentally on track.
- Throughout the pandemic, safe, stable, and affordable housing became an increasing issue for families. A supportive housing grant was secured that provides a monthly housing stipend to those families enrolled in HFA.

### **Educating Parents and Supporting Families Where They Are**

**Family Education** served a total of 580 parents in either our 4-week parenting education program or 10-week anger management program. Eighty percent (80%) of parents completed the program, attending all scheduled sessions. Moreover, of the different constructs measured pre and post program, the most parents improved in parental involvement, which is critical to safe and positive parenting.

**Kids Care Plus**, our drop-in child care and learning support program, provided 2,500 hours of childcare and academic learning support for children 2 to 12 years of age in either a 3.5-hour morning or afternoon session. Because of the predicament many parents faced with work, child care, and the virtual schooling of their children, in September, our Kids Care Plus (KCP) program expanded to include academic learning support for children up to 2nd Grade. KCP, which is offered free of charge, has been a lifesaver for many parents needing respite or help juggling work, caring for their young preschool-aged child(ren) or supporting their school-aged child.

**Extending our Reach** through social media, blogs and Facebook Live, we ramped up both the number and depth of our blogs, publishing over 42 blogs posts this year, and reaching 8,604 people. Through these efforts, we increased our social media following by 35%.

**24/7 Parenting HelpLine and Online Chat** fielded 3,300 calls and live chats, providing reassurance and connecting parents to needed resources, including those of The Family Tree.



## IMPACT REPORT FY 2021



### **Building Stronger Communities through Partnerships**

ACE Interface provides trainings on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to members of both the professional and general communities. A total of 15,000 professionals and lay people participated in ACE trainings across the state, expanding the population of those who can engage in community healing efforts.

In addition, The Family Tree continued to actively participate on key steering committees and coalitions, some of which included the following.

- **Healing City Baltimore** focuses on healing the city from trauma, violence, and racial inequality. The Family Tree proudly serves on the Healing City Baltimore Steering Committee headed by City Council member Zeke Cohen.
- **MD Essentials for Childhood (MEFC)** is a collective impact coalition which The Family Tree co-leads in conjunction with the Maryland State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect. The coalition is inclusive of over 50 professionals and community members with relevant life experiences. Its goal is to raise awareness and commitment to building safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and prevent child abuse and neglect. The coalition uses data to inform actions, create a context for healthy children and families through norm change and programs, and promote policies that support healthy families and children.

During this year, its focus was to: 1) support families through establishing a coordinated resource response during COVID; 2) evaluate the role racism plays in the child welfare system as well as other government systems that can translate into public policy reforms; and, 3) promote system change and education that prevents childhood adversity.

### **Making Families and Children a Priority Through Advocacy**

The Maryland General Assembly this year was strictly virtual which limited our capacity to visit and host a reception for lawmakers whereby we could seek support for targeted bills. The virtual session's focus was on advocating for financial relief for families and businesses due to the pandemic; building accountability in law enforcement; infusing equity, inclusion, and diversity principles in legislation; and considering policies that prevent and respond to children/families who are exposed to family and community adversities. The Family Tree and other child advocates focused on supporting the following bills with mixed results:

## Making Families and Children a Priority Through Advocacy (continued)

- Hidden Predator Act of 2021 (SB 134/HB263)—failed, which would eliminate the civil statute of limitations going forward for victims of child sexual abuse; create a lookback window for those victims who have previously been barred by the statute of limitations, allowing them to file suit for a period of two years.
- Trauma Informed Commission & Training (HB548/SB0299)—passed, which will establish a commission to coordinate a statewide effort that will prioritize a trauma informed and responsive delivery of services that impact children.
- Public Schools, CDC Youth Risk Behavioral Assessment (HB0771/SB0548)—technically passed but failed to include questions that schools believe are not appropriate regarding child sexual abuse.
- A Time to Care Act (HB375)—failed, which would establish the Family and Medical Paid Leave Insurance Program that would provide temporary benefits to a worker for up to 12 weeks following the birth, adoption or provide care for oneself or a close family member.
- Corp Diversity, Executive, Mission (HB1210)—passed. This bill requires corporations receiving \$5 million annually in state grants to comply with a range of equity criteria related to underserved communities.
- Growing Family Child Care Opportunities (SB711)—passed, which establishes funded pilot projects in the state aimed at increasing the supply and sustainability of family child care providers in areas of poverty.



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