

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



April 2019

DHS, Pitt child welfare partnership receives workforce excellence grant

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work have been selected as one of eight partnerships nationally to take part in a new Workforce Excellence initiative through the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau. As a Workforce Excellence site, DHS and Pitt will work with the NCWWI on a 5-year plan to cultivate inclusive organizational leadership and high-performing staff.

"We are honored to receive this opportunity, which is a reflection of the great collaboration that we have built with the School of Social Work," said Marc Cherna, DHS director. "This initiative will help us to continue to build a diverse workforce to better meet the needs of children and families served through our child welfare system, while also preparing those caseworkers to be the child welfare leaders of tomorrow."

Working with representatives from the NCWWI, the initiative includes the integration of a Leadership Academy which will enable participating child welfare leaders to become skilled in leading change, fostering collaboration, implementing results-oriented decisions, and leading people. Additionally, the initiative will provide guidance and funding for the development of a Traineeship Program for master's level students in the School of Social Work who commit to working in the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) upon program completion.

To learn more about the Child Welfare Workforce Excellence Fellows Program, visit the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work [website](#).