



STATE FUNDING :: IMPACT

Educational Tax Credits. For the past 11 years, the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development (PA DCED) as a Pre-Kindergarten, Educational Improvement, Scholarship and Opportunity Scholarship Organization.

Pre-K Tax Credits

- **140 pre-kindergarten scholarships** in four counties (Lackawanna, Wayne, Pike and Susquehanna), totaling \$141,200

Scholarship Tax Credits

- **43 scholarships** awarded in past school year, totaling \$79,400

Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits

- **26 scholarships** awarded in past school year, totaling \$57,615

Educational Improvement Tax Credits

Lackawanna County

- **140 children** participated in an after-school Music and Arts program at the Greater Carbondale YMCA and United Neighborhood Centers, totaling \$9,117
- **62 children** participated in an after-school Environmental Education program, totaling \$6,250

Wayne County

- **41 children** participated in an after-school Music and Arts program at the Wayne County YMCA, totaling \$5,576
- **171 children** participated in an after-school or summer Environmental Education program at the Wayne County YMCA, totaling \$2,494
- **141 children** participated in an after-school or summer Robotics program at the Wayne County YMCA, totaling \$2,774

Family Savings Accounts. Through a grant from the PA DCED, the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties is working with **10 savers** to receive a maximum **dollar-for-dollar savings match up to \$2,000 for a home purchase, business start-up or higher education.** Income guidelines and savings restrictions apply. Due to changes in program parameters that no longer allow savings for transportation, this program has not recruited as many savers as it did when we last participated in 2009.

State Food Purchase Program. The United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties is the local administrator of this program. Emergency state food was distributed to **28,997 individuals** an average of four times per year. The total cost was \$335,471 with an average of \$2.89 per visit, per individual.

Community Innovation Zone Grant. The United Way is lead agency for a three year (FY2015-2018) \$225,000 (\$75,000/year) **Community Innovation Zone** grant through Pennsylvania's Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge to help close the achievement gap and improve student outcomes for disadvantaged children from birth through 3rd grade. This is a unique community collaboration with United Way, McNichols Plaza and Kennedy Elementary Schools in the Scranton School District and Freckles and Frills Early Learning Center. In the current year a high priority was placed on professional development as five principals and teachers attended the Improving School Performance Conference in Pittsburgh while eight collaborative members attended the P3 Governor's Institute in Harrisburg. United Way also hosted two professional development trainings for 78 district/ community preschool teachers.

In 2016/17 the **Family and Schools Together (F.A.S.T.) Student Academies** in McNichols Plaza and Kennedy Elementary schools served **80 children** with regular after-school sessions to improve literacy and academic skills. The **F.A.S.T. Family Academies** focused on educational programs to foster family engagement. The 12 programs were held outside of regular school hours and included "Bedtime Stories" with children and their families in pajamas reading with teachers; Welcome to School programs for children entering school for the first time; super-hero themed Be a Learning Hero nights and Movie Night where families read a book together and a movie based on the book was shown on the district's outdoor big screen.

New this year, **F.A.S.T. Family Resource Centers** were established in McNichols Plaza and Kennedy Elementary Schools as a space within the school library dedicated to student and family support. Filled with literacy kits, games, activity books and other tangible learning materials, the space also includes community service information and many parental information/educational tools. Children are allowed to sign-out materials to take home and share with their families, and the families can also access the materials at the school.

United Way of Lackawanna
and Wayne Counties



The **F.A.S.T. P3 Collaborative and Transition team** initiated "**Kindergarten Dialogues**" in which Pre-Kindergarten teachers share information and work toward continuity of curriculum and services.

This unique collaborative effort reaches well past the direct impact cited above. The newly established systems and professional development are shaping the policies of both Pre K and elementary schools in Scranton's South Side. ***It is estimated this indirect impact will influence the educational outcomes of well over 2,000 children and families over the three year span of the grant and many more in the years beyond.***

The United Way provides in-kind staff support valued at \$5,100 per year to this endeavor in return for \$7,500 per year in administrative expense reimbursement.



A Community Innovation Zone partnership with United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, Freckles & Frills, Kennedy Elementary and McNichols Plaza.

On the **F.A.S.T.** Track to Success!



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