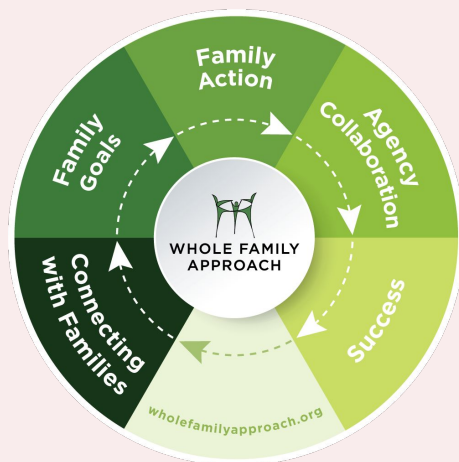




WHO WE ARE

For families that immigrate to the U.S., language skills are the keystone for turning a new community into their home. Yet, too many immigrant families in New Jersey do not have access to English learning programs, preventing them from securing employment, accessing community resources, or even communicating across generations in their own homes.

Families for Literacy partners with immigrant, working-class families to establish English language proficiency as a basis for achieving the futures they dream of. Through programs that promote language skills, sustainable employment, and children's academic achievement, families are linked with the opportunities and resources to increase personal agency, engage with their communities and flourish. Our collaborative brings together the expertise of four nonprofits to connect families with a full range of services: New City Kids, Saint Peter's University, WomenRising and Rising Tide Capital.



THE WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH

While families are made up of individuals, their challenges and successes are interdependent. Our work is guided by the Whole Family Approach, a family-led strategy which equips adults and children with the tools and social support to set, plan for, and achieve their goals together. When the whole family works together to support each other's goals, long-term change and stability become a reality.

Families work with case managers to set goals together and access the services we offer to achieve those goals, starting with English language proficiency and ranging from academic support, job training and financial coaching to healthy relationship and child well-being. Seamless collaboration among agencies in our collaborative yields better access to services, ensures a coordinated effort to track families' progress and improves well-being for the entire family.

BUILDING FAMILY STABILITY & WELL-BEING

We recognize that all areas of life are interconnected. Families cannot address one area without factoring in another. A research team at the University of Pennsylvania is conducting an ongoing evaluation of the Whole Family Approach in two New York City metro area collaboratives, including Families for Literacy. Preliminary findings suggest promising trends:

- Child well-being is improving, with young people expressing optimism and a sense of agency about their future.
- Relationships between parents and children are improving.
- Adult well-being is improving, particularly mental health.
- Parents are feeling more confident in their ability to manage money.

These findings reinforce the positive impact of the holistic services we offer including: English language classes, after-school programming, entrepreneurship training, vocational resources, financial coaching programs, and comprehensive case management.



OUR IMPACT

Our expertise in family well-being opens doors for families to achieve their goals every day. During the 2019-2020 grant year, our 76 participating families achieved the following:

44
families
increased their
income

60
parents improved
their English
language proficiency

70%
of children improved
or maintained their
reading grade

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

When Ariel and Lisa Toribio moved to New York from the Dominican Republic, it was important to them that their two children receive the best education possible. Their oldest son flourished in New City Kids, but Ariel and Lisa worried they lacked the language proficiency and skill set to become more involved in his schoolwork. Deeply motivated to improve his English, Ariel and his family began working with a Families for Literacy case manager, Josh, to set academic goals for their children and enroll in ESL classes. Josh also connected them with other Families for Literacy services, such as financial coaching and career-building workshops. Today, Ariel and his wife are working with their son regularly to set weekly academic goals, and Ariel's English has improved. The family is also implementing budgeting techniques. Working with Families for Literacy has helped the Toribios realize how much they have in common, in turn helping them to become even closer as a family.

OUR RESILIENCE

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted our families' well-being and long-term goals. Our staff quickly adapted to maintain ongoing support to families including:

- Virtual tutoring and after-school programming;
- Remote job search and readiness training; and
- Digital literacy training to prepare parents for virtual English language learning.

TAKE ACTION

Join us in building stronger, thriving families. Just as one person cannot do it alone, one agency cannot do it alone, either. Become a donor, partner or volunteer today!