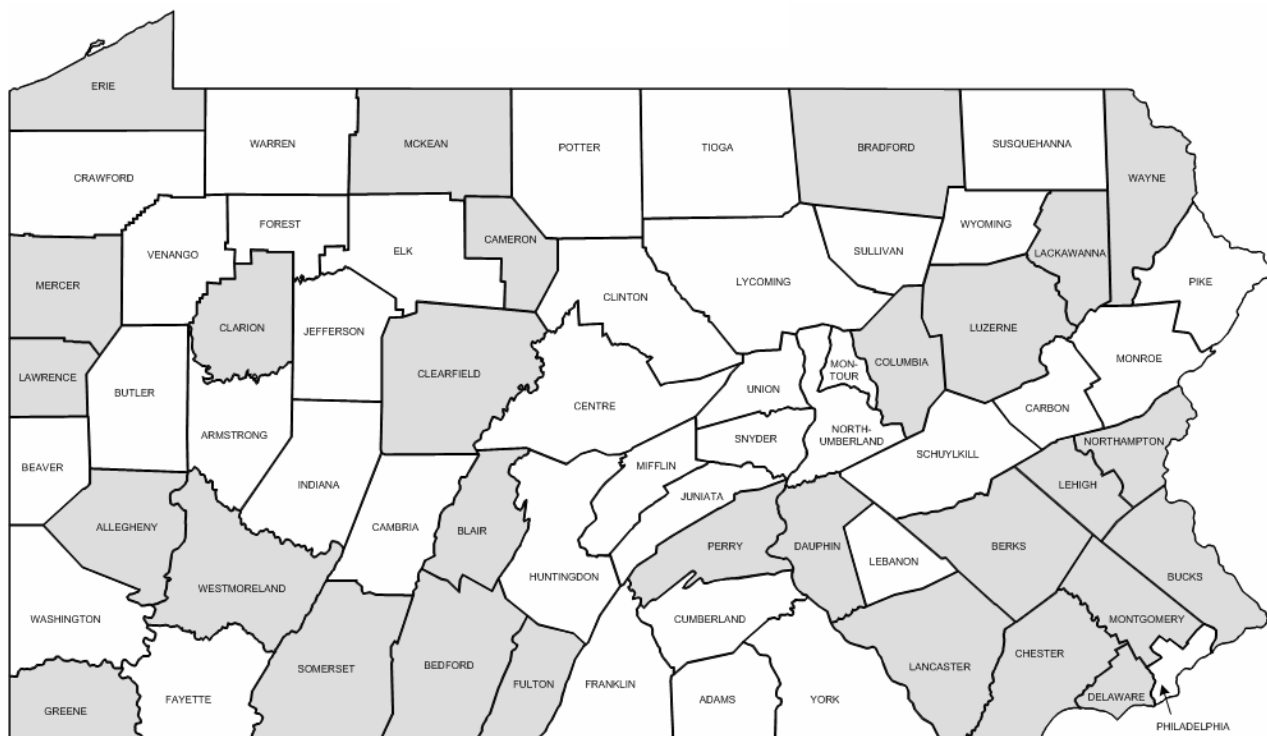


# Pennsylvania Family Centers



## Overview

Pennsylvania's Family Centers are based on the philosophy that the most effective way to insure the healthy growth and development of children is to support families and the communities in which they live. Though uniquely designed to meet local needs, each of the Family Centers are built upon common principles.

- The family is the center of a child's life. Family support is essential to healthy child development.
- Families are unique, and parents know their children best.
- Services are directed to the whole family and are community-based.
- Needs of children and families must be addressed quickly, and services must be convenient and accessible.
- Primary health care and parents' knowledge of child development are essential to children's ability to learn and succeed.
- Services and supports must be inclusive in ways that are respectful of individual differences.

For over a decade, Family Centers have integrated and provided community services to help families become healthy, well-educated and self-sufficient. Currently, there are 44 state-contracted Family Centers located in the counties shaded on the map above. Other Family Centers exist throughout the state that are supported through a variety of funds including, federal, foundation, school and/or community dollars.

Family Centers provide a framework for strengthening families by encouraging economic self-sufficiency, and assuring healthy development and access to healthcare services for children. They promote positive child development through effective parenting, early intervention and outreach activities, and support and preserve the family unit as the child's foundation for success. Family Centers provide a seamless, comprehensive, and easily accessed network of services for children.

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