



NEW YORK STATE PYRAMID MODEL

Annual Reports: 2024 & 2025



**Council on Children
and Families**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Pyramid Model continues to transform early childhood programs in New York State by creating inclusive, nurturing learning environments where every child can thrive. Targeted professional development for educators and support for families and caregivers provides practical skills and evidence-based strategies to support all children, including those with diverse developmental and behavioral needs, and reduces suspensions and expulsions related to challenging behaviors.

New York Pyramid Model State Leadership Team	2
NYS Pyramid Model Implementation	3
Implementation Highlights	4
Roadmap Series	8
Implementation Data System	9
State and National Events	10
Pyramid Model Workshop Series Pilot	11

VISION: All New York State infants, toddlers, young children, and their families will be supported in their social-emotional development to promote their success in school and life.

MISSION: Across all regions and modalities, early childhood programs throughout New York have equitable access to Pyramid Model support in the form of training, coaching, observations, and data collection which leads to the elimination of exclusionary discipline practices and increases access to programs using the Pyramid Model framework for children and families.



NEW YORK PYRAMID MODEL STATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

New York State
Pyramid Model
Promoting Social & Emotional
Competence in New York's
Young Children



Dona Anderson

Executive Director, City University of New York Professional Development Institute

Co-Chair, New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council

Representing: Higher Education, Aspire Workforce Registry, QUALITYstarsNY, Professional Development, Early Childhood Career Centers



Joy Connolly

Associate Commissioner, Division of Child Care Services, New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Representing: Child Care and Development Block Grant Program (CCDBG)



Karen Dwyer

Manager of Quality Improvement, New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention Program

Representing: Early Intervention, Part C IDEA



Abbe Hahn

Associate Executive Director, Early Care and Learning Council

Representing: Child Care Resource Centers



Deborah McGuire

Director, State University of New York, Professional Development Program

Representing: Higher Education, Early Childhood Training, Early Childhood Scholarship Program



Patty Persell

Early Childhood Policy Director, Head Start Collaboration Office
Director, New York State Council on Children and Families

Co-Chair, NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council

Representing: Head Start



Lori Smart

Director, New York State Education Department, Office of Early Learning

Representing: Prekindergarten



The NY Pyramid Model State Leadership Team (SLT) celebrates two more successful years of growth and work towards sustaining the implementation of the Pyramid Model framework.

The SLT thanks all who work to build supportive relationships with young children and their families, and create environments where young children thrive. Our collective efforts have helped to transform early childhood education and positively impact the lives of children and families across New York State since 2015.

With gratitude,
NY Pyramid Model State Leadership Team

PYRAMID MODEL IMPLEMENTATION 2024 & 2025

Overview

The Pyramid Model is a multi-tiered system of support to enhance social and emotional development in infants, toddlers, and young children. It offers evidence-based strategies for families and professionals to support optimal social and emotional development and prevent challenging behaviors.

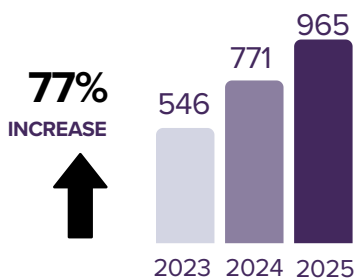
The NYS Council on Children and Families (CCF) leads the statewide implementation and expansion of the Pyramid Model in New York. With guidance from the Pyramid Model State Leadership team (SLT), composed of experts in the field, the model provides an evidence-based framework proven to be an effective approach to building social emotional skills. The framework can be used across family child care, center-based programs including HeadStart, Early HeadStart and integrated preschool programs (those that teach young children with and without disabilities), and school districts, along with family engagement components to support children at home. Many of the organizations represented on the 2024-2025 SLT have been a part of Pyramid Model Implementation since its inception in 2015. In 2023, a restructuring of the over 20 organizations making up the SLT was done to create a more focused group to assist with the implementation and expansion of Pyramid Model across New York State. The SLT and staff continued to guide Pyramid Model implementation, with regular meetings focused on the Statewide Benchmarks of Quality, action planning, and alignment with other early childhood and family-serving programs and services. Notable developments during the year included:

- Ongoing monthly leadership meetings to advance statewide benchmarks and priorities.
- Formal efforts to align the Pyramid Model with statewide quality improvement systems, including the alignment between the QUALITYstarsNY Standards and the Pyramid Model Framework.
- Focus on the inclusion of family voice at the state leadership level through participation of a family representative with lived experience navigating early childhood systems. A family representative will be a part of the 2026 SLT, along with members from the New York State Office of Mental Health and Head Start Training and Technical Assistance team to broaden representation on the SLT.

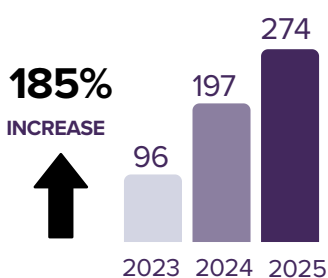
Trainers, practitioner coaches, reliable observers, and implementation coaches can be found in all early care and learning settings (child care centers, family child care, school districts, Head Start and Early Head Start, and preschool special education programs) across New York State. Data on implementation is collected and recorded in the Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS) in each early childhood setting at the program, classroom, and child level.

FIGURE 1: Implementation Data as of December 2025

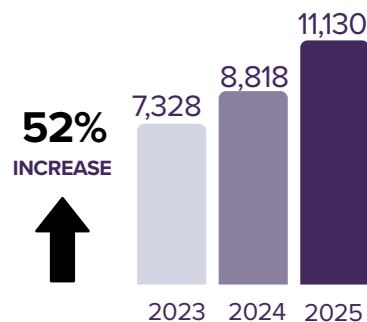
Classrooms and Child Care Settings



Programs



Children Served



Data Source: Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS)

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Professional Development Network

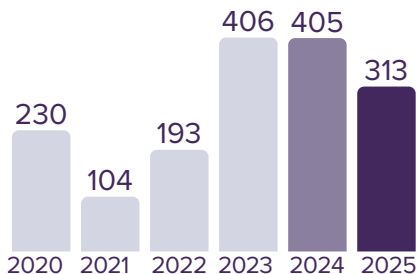
To better support Pyramid Model implementation expansion, a Professional Development Network (PDN) was formed. The PDN is supported by two Statewide Coordinators who report to CCF, and work in partnership with the Regional Coordinators to provide Pyramid Model support in their region. The PDN includes 94 Pyramid Model Content Trainers, 33 Program Implementation Coaches, Practitioner Coaches, Teaching Pyramid Model Observation Tool (TPOT)/Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) Observers, and Specialized Content Trainers. The diversification of implementation support has allowed the PDN to engage in one or more of the above roles, depending on their experience.

The Pyramid Model trainings provided throughout the state illustrate some of the support provided by the PDN. In 2024, there were 405 trainings provided (almost the same as last year), but with roughly 600 fewer attendees. This reduction was due to more time spent on conducting Roadmap Series Sessions to onboard new programs to full implementation; these sessions have lower attendance than typical module trainings because they are attended by only one program administrator (and the module trainings are typically attended by the full staff). In 2025, 313 trainings were offered with 5,937 attendees (fig. 2). A total of 259 program implementation coaching meetings were held in 2024 and 2025 (fig. 3). Members of the PDN that are Program Implementation Coaches provide coaching and guidance to the Program Leadership Teams and practitioner coaches while supporting program-wide implementation (fig. 4).

The PDN also receives ongoing professional development to support their own knowledge and skills. Over 40 PDN engaged in a Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children training in 2025, a research-proven, family-centered approach used in schools nationwide to resolve challenging behaviors. Developed by top behavior experts, this training guides how to improve social emotional development and prevent challenging behaviors of young children in preschool settings by preventing behavior problems, teaching proactive communication and social skills, and reinforcing positive behavior.

FIGURE 2: NYS Pyramid Model Trainings 2020-25

Training



Attendees

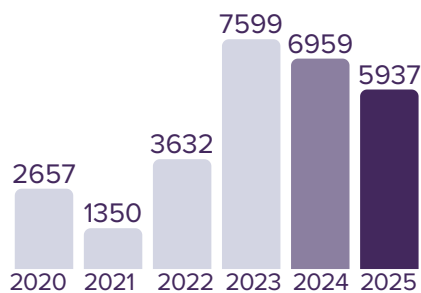
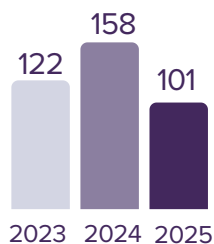


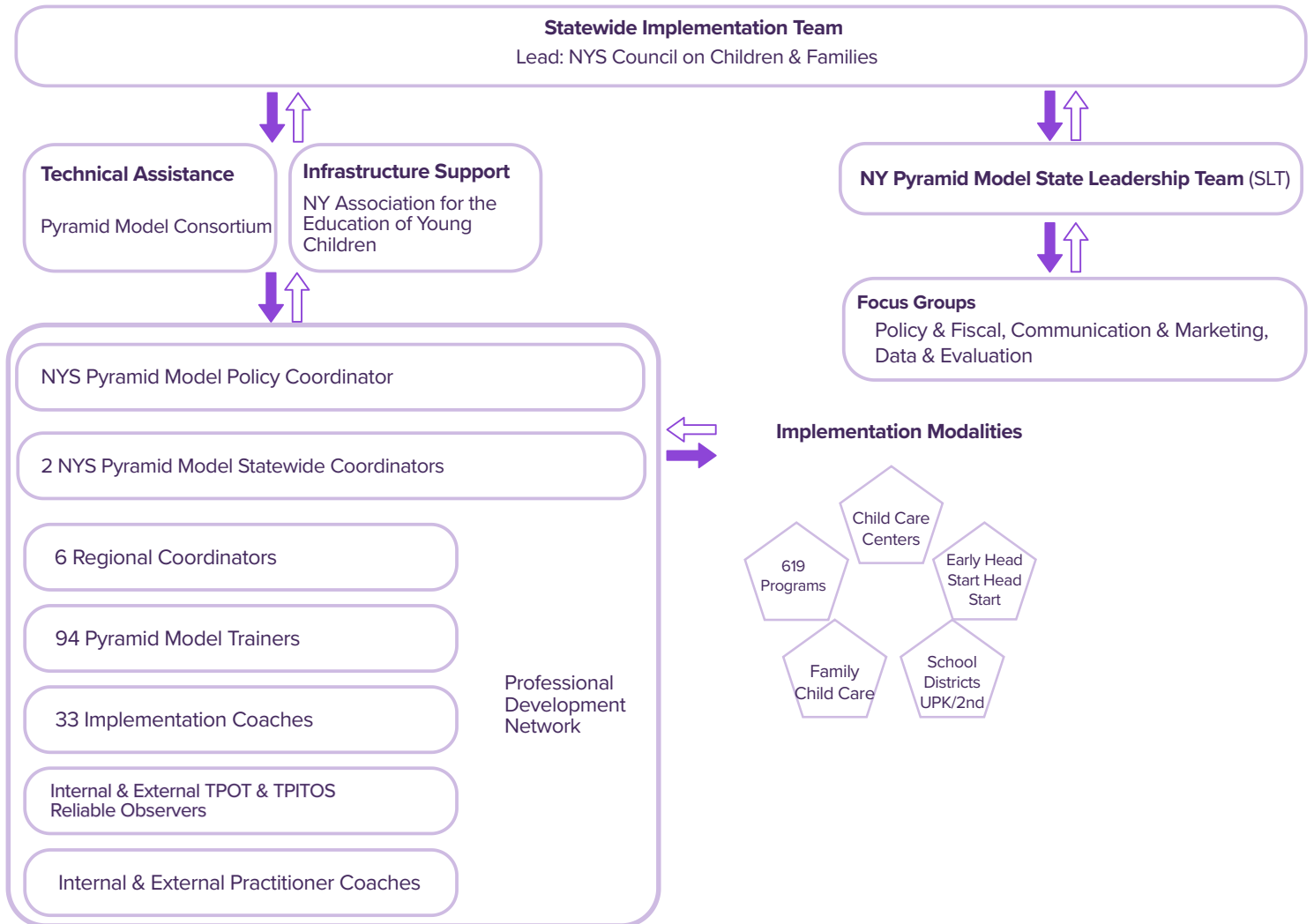
FIGURE 3: Program Implementation Coaching Meetings



IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

FIGURE 4: NYS Pyramid Model Essential Structures

Braided funding supports implementation





Pyramid Model Policy Coordinator Position Created

In March 2025, CCF hired a Pyramid Model Policy Coordinator to sustain and expand cross-sector implementation of the Pyramid Model across New York. In addition to working to advance the implementation of Pyramid Model practices and policies across the early childhood landscape, the Pyramid Model Policy Coordinator piloted supporting youth parents in the juvenile justice system and explored other opportunities to bring Pyramid Model to the greater community.

Transition to National Pyramid Model Module Content

In 2022, New York developed a state version of the national Pyramid Model modules, the *Core Body of Knowledge: New York State's Core Competencies for Early Childhood Educators*, and the *New York State Early Learning Guidelines*.

In 2025, New York committed to aligning future training delivery with the updated Pyramid Model modules to ensure consistency and fidelity of the training (in 2023, the National Center on Pyramid Model Innovations updated its e-modules). Starting in 2026, the updated e-modules will be available at no charge to New York's early childhood workforce enrolled in the Aspire Registry.

Using nationally recognized, research-based content makes it easier for school districts and other early education programs to use Pyramid Model training. Increased accessibility to the content is also provided through multiple training formats, including in person and virtually (synchronously and asynchronously), optimizing time and support to meet the varying needs of programs and providers in different settings.

Pyramid Model Expands to Reach More Families

Increased efforts were made to support positive and effective parenting practices and to help more families understand behavior and social and emotional development. In addition to providing the content of Positive Solutions for Families (PSF) to families connected to Pyramid Model implementing programs, in 2024 and 2025, over 70 new facilitators were trained to deliver the PSF series not only in early care and learning settings, but in community locations such as libraries and community centers.

A New Look for a Familiar Friend, Tucker Turtle

In 2025, New York got a new Tucker Turtle mascot costume. This costume is available for implementing programs to borrow for Pyramid Model events. Find Tucker making visits at local and regional conferences across NYS! Contact PyramidModel@ccf.ny.gov for more information about the Tucker Turtle costume.

Learning and Collaborating with Other States

In October 2025, more than 50 NYS early childhood professionals implementing the Pyramid Model attended and presented at a Northeast Pyramid Model Conference to explore new strategies and research. This inaugural Conference was hosted by the University of Connecticut School of Social Work Innovations Institute, and co-designed by the Pyramid Model state leads in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, with guidance from the Pyramid Model Consortium. The Conference provided a regional professional development opportunity focused on integrating practices and principles, and provided insights on best practices and research. .

Supporting Programs with Full Time Pyramid Model Implementation Professional Development Network Opportunities

Starting in 2026, a new statewide Pyramid Model implementation and Expansion contract was to be awarded. Per this agreement, a dedicated workforce to support Pyramid Model programs will be established, with the hiring of full-time equivalent positions for all roles required for Pyramid Model implementation including Statewide and Regional Coordinators, PDN, and Program Implementation Coaches and Trainers.

NYS Pyramid Model Webpage

CCF developed a new NYS Pyramid Model webpage at www.ccf.ny.gov/pyramid-model. You'll find both state and national resources for the model to use at home as well as in early care and learning settings. Users can now view the Book Nook Library or log into PIDS!



ROAD MAP SERIES

Implementation of the Pyramid Model takes time, and best practice is to focus on key steps that will support implementing with fidelity. Use of a new Pyramid Model Roadmap to Implementation training increased the number of programs implementing the Pyramid Model in New York. This training guides programs from exploring to actually implementing the Pyramid Model.

Roadmap Series Success

A phased approach to program implementation was adopted in 2024. This intentional readiness approach was supported by the Roadmap to Program Wide Implementation series, in alignment with the national Pyramid Model guidelines and implementation science.

Phase 1: Exploration

All new programs begin with the exploration phase.

Phase 2: Installation

During this phase, programs transition from Exploration (Phase 1) to Initial Implementation (Phase 3). The Regional Coordinator helps guide the program through the Pre-Application Planning Tool to assess program readiness for the Initial Implementation Phase.

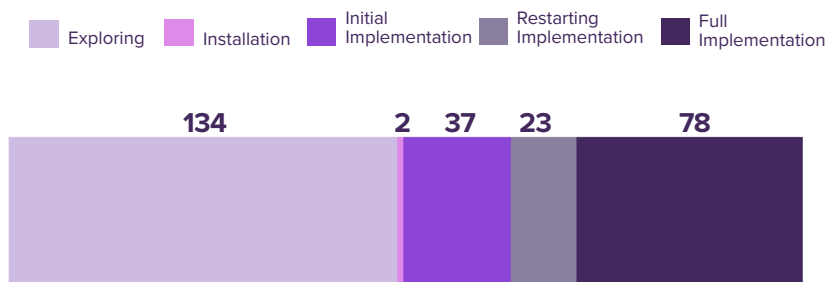
Phase 3: Initial Implementation

The program commits to implementing the Pyramid Model Framework. The Program Implementation Coach begins to provide implementation support. The Coach will continue to support the program over the next several years.

Phase 4: Full Implementation

The program can sustain implementation with minimal support, consistently meeting its implementation goals and continuing to work toward full fidelity to the Pyramid Model Framework.

FIGURE 5: NYS Pyramid Model Sites Phase of Implementation 2025



PYRAMID MODEL IMPLEMENTATION DATA SYSTEM (PIDS)

Overview

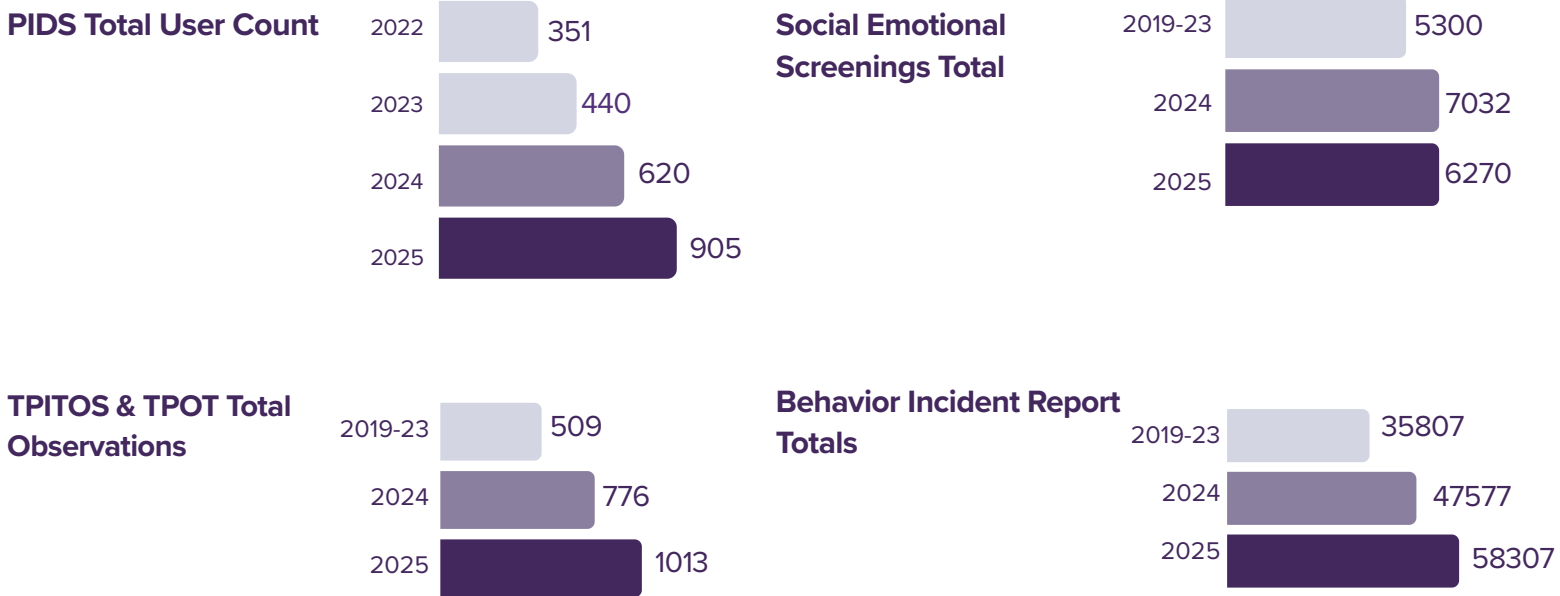
The Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS) was created by NYS in 2019 as a secure, cloud-based system for collecting and using Pyramid Model implementation data. PIDS allows implementing programs to enter data at the child, classroom/Family Child Care, program, and community levels to support continuous improvement and informed decision-making.

PIDS helps programs strengthen practices that support children’s social and emotional development, identify professional development needs, and demonstrate the impact of Pyramid Model implementation statewide. Originally developed in and by New York, PIDS is now used by over 20 states in the U.S., as well as other countries and provinces, showcasing New York’s leadership in creating a Pyramid Model data system. Programs collect a variety of Pyramid Model related data including developmental screenings, Teaching Pyramid Model Observation Tool (TPOT), and Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS) observations, and behavior incident reports.

PIDS utilization increased dramatically in New York in 2024 and 2025. Region 5 (NYC and Long Island) started with 18 programs using PIDS in 2024 and saw the greatest growth with more than 50 programs.

Regions 1, 2, and 4 (Central NY) started 2024 with 67 programs and added 46 programs. In 2025, 43 more programs were added into these three regions. Region 3 (Northern NY) added 2 new programs between 2024 and 2025, giving the region a total of 17 programs. Further efforts and attention will be considered for this geographically sparse region.

FIGURE 6: NYS PIDS Data Totals



STATE & NATIONAL EVENTS

Statewide and Regional Coordinators, Professional Development Network, and implementing program staff attended many regional, statewide, and national events to share the success of Pyramid Model implementation and provide information on the importance of social emotional development in early childhood!



2024 National Center on Pyramid Model Innovations Annual Conference.



2024 National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior Conference.



2024 NY Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference.



2024 National Training Institute State Planning Day.



2025 National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behaviors Conference.



2025 NY State Leadership Team Meeting.



2025 Northeast Regional Pyramid Model Conference.

WORKSHOP SERIES PILOT

Connecting with Youth Parents in the Juvenile Justice System

In 2024, a modified version of the Pyramid Model's Positive Solutions for Families workshop series was piloted with youth who were, or would soon become parents, in New York State Office of Children and Family Services' Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY) residential centers. Each session was tailored to the youth parents, and focused on how they can build positive relationships with their children and promote their children's social and emotional competence while also strengthening their own resilience. These sessions provided opportunities for parenting growth through discussions about the impact of adverse childhood experiences and self-reflection. With a strong focus on promoting protective factors, this pilot aimed to increase parenting skills that will lead to better outcomes for their young children.

Positive feedback from youth parents, along with ongoing development and improvement, led to the opportunity to expand this pilot and work collaboratively with DJJOY. In 2025, six Community Multi-Service Officers (CMSOs) from DJJOY were trained as Positive Solutions for Families (PSF) facilitators and in an early version of the modified PSF content titled, *LIFT Up: Learn, Inspire, Feel. Trust.* The LIFT Up Series will be provided in one DJJOY facility (Goshen Secure facility), in February through May 2026. With input from early childhood and parenting experts and individuals with lived experience, the final development of LIFT Up series will be completed for expanded opportunities across DJJOY facilities and in the communities where the youth's children and extended families are living.

LOOKING AHEAD

2024 and 2025 were years of growth and expansion for the Pyramid Model in New York. Looking ahead, CCF is excited to continue strengthening the implementation of the Pyramid Model in more early childhood settings to best support the social and emotional development of young children and the skills of their caregivers.

If you would like more information about implementing the Pyramid Model in NYS, please visit the New York website:

- www.ccf.ny.gov/pyramid-model
- Email: PyramidModel@ccf.ny.gov



NYS PYRAMID MODEL ANNUAL REPORTS: 2024 & 2025

NYS Council on Children and Families

Stephanie Woodard
Fiscal Policy Analyst

Ian Suleski
Data Analyst

Tracy Lyman
Pyramid Model Policy Coordinator

Patricia Persell
Early Childhood Policy Director

Elana Marton
Deputy Director and Counsel

Yan Wu
Deputy Director of Research

Vanessa Threatte
Executive Director

