

[Astor Gets \\$25K Kellogg Grant to Expand Lean Six Sigma](#)



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Astor Services for Children & Families has received a \$25,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan that will support improvements to the delivery of services to children, ages zero to five, and their families in Dutchess County.

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Over the last two years, Astor has implemented the Lean Six Sigma (LSS) process improvement methodology that is used by many Fortune 500 companies; and has a member on staff who holds a “Black Belt,” the highest level of LSS qualification.

Astor hopes to replicate the success it has seen with improvement of efficiencies in areas such as billing, hiring and storage of medical records to enhance the quality of communication between members of agencies providing services that participate in the Early Childhood Coordinated Services and the Children’s Coordinated Services Initiatives.

“Our implementation of Lean Six Sigma throughout the agency has resulted in increased efficiencies and improved communication. We have been able to successfully use a manufacturing process improvement model to help people. Our staff is very enthused about the results that have eliminated waste so that our time and resources can be better focused on the children and families we serve,” says James McGuirk, Ph.D., Executive Director/CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families. Dr. McGuirk goes on to say that “the grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation will allow Astor to bring this proven methodology to the community to directly impact the children and families.”