



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPLEMENTATION IN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

Over the last fifteen years, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) has built Strengthening Families into one of the most widely recognized approaches to child abuse and neglect prevention in the country. At its heart, Strengthening Families is about how families are supported to build key protective factors that enable children to thrive.

States and communities are integrating Strengthening Families into at least one of four key sectors: early care and education, child abuse and neglect prevention, home visiting, and child welfare. In each of these fields, Strengthening Families offers:

- An intuitive explanation of what families need to thrive, and what programs can do to support them
- A common framework and a shared set of results for families
- A broad range of concrete, low- and no-cost actions that many types of programs can implement
- Free and easily accessible tools to support implementation at the program, policy and systems levels

How Strengthening Families is used in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

States and communities are implementing Strengthening Families in the field of child abuse and neglect prevention in many different ways. Key strategies include:

- **Provider Training:** training is provided for child abuse and neglect prevention providers, parenting educators, and family resource center staff about the Strengthening Families approach and/or Protective Factors Framework.
- **CBCAP:** Strengthening Families Protective Factors are part of the state's Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) request for proposals (RFP), implementation, and/or reporting.
- **Local Prevention Planning:** county or community-level prevention planning processes are aligned to the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework.
- **ACEs work:** Strengthening Families and protective factors are integrated in state-level work related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- **Mandated reporter training** includes the Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework.
- **Public awareness campaigns** use the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework.
- The state's **Prevent Child Abuse chapter** is engaged in Strengthening Families implementation.

The grid on the following page shows which of these strategies states report using in their implementation of Strengthening Families.

Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families™ is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five protective factors:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

Using the Strengthening Families framework, more than 30 states are shifting policy and practice to help programs working with children and families focus on protective factors. States apply the Strengthening Families approach in early childhood, child welfare, child abuse prevention and other child and family serving systems.

For more information, visit www.strengtheningfamilies.net.



State	Last Updated	Provider Training	CBCAP	Local Prevention Planning	ACEs Work	Mandated Reporter Training	Public Awareness Campaigns	Prevent Child Abuse Chapter
Alabama	2020	X	X		X		X	X
Alaska	2020	X	X		X		X	X
Arkansas	2020	X						
Arizona	2020	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado	2020	X	X	X	X		X	X
Georgia	2020	X	X		X	X	X	X
Guam	2020	X						
Indiana	2020	X		X				
Maine	2020	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maryland	2020	X	X	X				X
Michigan	2020	X	X		X			
Missouri	2020	X		X				
New Hampshire	2020	X		X	X		X	X
North Carolina	2020	X	X	X	X		X	X
Ohio	2020	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pennsylvania	2020	X	X					
South Carolina	2020	X						
Tennessee	2020	X						X
Utah	2020	X	X		X			
Washington	2020	X	X				X	X
West Virginia	2020	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wisconsin	2020	X	X		X	X	X	X
TOTAL		22	15	10	13	6	12	14

Based on state reports, last updated January 2021