

## TOOLS TO SUPPORT STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPLEMENTATION

Strengthening Families is supported by a wealth of tools and resources that can easily be adopted and adapted for any program or service sector.

**Strengthening Families Program Self-Assessment** based on exemplary practices activities identified through field research. Child and family-serving programs can use it to assess how well current activities, services and program policies support families to build protective factors.

<http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/practice>

**The Strengthening Families Online Data System** includes the self-assessment and parent and staff surveys which support action planning at the program level. The online system can also provide aggregated data from multiple programs to inform resource and support decisions at the local or state level.

<http://www.mosaic-network.com/gemslive/cssp/>

**www.StrengtheningFamilies.net** contains a wide range of implementation tools for those implementing at all levels.

**Online training curriculum** – The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds offers a free 7-course, 14-hour online Strengthening Families training. For a fee, the Alliance will also train trainers in an in-person curriculum designed to provide the same content as the online training.

<http://www.ctfalliance.org/onlinetraining.htm>

**Protective Factors Survey** – The FRIENDS National Resource Center created this evidence-based, (reliability and validity tested) 20-item caregiver-completed tool to help measure changes in family protective factors. The PFS provides feedback to agencies for continuous improvement and evaluation purposes and is not intended for individual assessment, placement, or diagnostic purposes.

<http://friendsnrc.org/protective-factors-survey>

**Parent and Community Cafés** – Cafés use intimate, guided conversations as a tool and process to support parents in understanding and building their own protective factors. Both the parent and community café models are based on the World Café approach and are implemented in partnership with parent leaders.

<http://www.beststrongfamilies.net/build-protective-factors/parent-cafes/>

<http://thecommunitycafe.com/>

### 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](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net).