

THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES NATIONAL NETWORK

The Strengthening Families National Network is the hub for information, ideas, implementation tools, resources, and peer connections to support implementation of Strengthening Families at all levels.

For those Implementing Strengthening Families

Anyone can become part of the Strengthening Families community and connect to the national movement. For individuals, programs, and organizations who want to stay informed about the work, connect to local initiatives, hear what's happening across the country, or find out about new tools, there are a number of options:

- Find out if your state is implementing Strengthening Families by clicking [here](#)
- Sign up for the monthly e-newsletter by clicking [here](#)
- Visit the website (<http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net>) where many resources are available

For those Coordinating Strengthening Families Implementation at the State Level

Any state or territory that is coordinating implementation of the Protective Factors Framework into programs and systems serving young children and their families may become a member of the Strengthening Families National Network. Membership in the Strengthening Families National Network has been open to states and territories since 2008; 33 states and one U.S. territory are currently members of the network.

Benefits of membership include:

- Monthly webinars co-hosted by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Children's Trust Fund Alliance
- Technical assistance via phone and e-mail
- Opportunities to participate in peer learning activities related to specific Strengthening Families implementation topics
- State-specific Strengthening Families logos and materials to adapt and use
- Opportunities to have innovative work highlighted in national forums

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.

Joining the Network

There is no membership fee. In order to be a member of the Strengthening Families National Network, states must commit to:

- Submitting a brief application
- Maintaining contact with CSSP via 1-4 designated “state leads”
- Reporting annually on implementation strategies, professionals reached, and emerging areas of work
- Providing content for a two-page profile of current work to be updated on an annual basis and maintained on the Strengthening Families [website](#)

To learn more about becoming a member of the Strengthening Families National Network contact [Cailin O'Connor](#).

National Partners

Many national organizations and federal offices have embraced the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. CSSP convenes Strengthening Families National Partners who share a commitment to working to support their constituencies in implementing Strengthening Families.

The national partners listed below work together to coordinate their work, support each other's efforts, and create a seamless and comprehensive support structure for those implementing Strengthening Families across the country. National partnership is by invitation only.

National Partner Organizations

- Be Strong Families
- BUILD Initiative
- Child and Family Policy Center of Iowa
- Child Care Aware USA
- Children's Bureau Learning & Collaboration Center
- Children's Trust Fund Alliance
- FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
- Help Me Grow National Center
- HOPE National Center
- Mosaic, Inc.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- National Family Support Network
- Parents Anonymous
- Parents as Teachers
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- ZERO TO THREE

Federal and military partners

- Administration for Children and Families: Office on Child Abuse and Neglect; Child Welfare Information Gateway; and Office of Early Childhood Development
- Department of Defense: Family Advocacy Program and New Parent Support Program
- Department of Education
- Health Resources and Services Administration