

INNOVATIONS IN STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPLEMENTATION

Over the last decade, 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

Innovations in Strengthening Families Implementation

In addition to the key fields mentioned above, states and communities are implementing Strengthening Families in other systems in a variety of innovative ways. Key strategies include:

- **Centralized referral and care coordination:** State or local Help Me Grow affiliate or 2-1-1 system uses the protective factors framework.
- **Community-level:** There are community-wide efforts (in one or more communities) to ensure families have support for their protective factors.
- **Corrections:** Strengthening Families approach is being used in services for incarcerated parents, their children, and their children's caregivers, and/or for parents on probation and parole.
- **Faith-based:** Faith leaders are using Strengthening Families in their ministry to families.
- **Health care:** Health care providers (such as pediatricians, AAP chapter, hospitals) are using Strengthening Families in their practice.

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.

Innovations in Implementation

State	Last Updated	Centralized Referral and Care Coordination	Community-Level	Corrections	Faith-Based	Health Care
Alabama	2020	X	X	X	X	X
Alaska	2020	X	X		X	
Colorado	2020	X				
Georgia	2020		X		X	X
Guam	2020	X	X			
Hawaii	2020		X			
Indiana	2020		X			
Kentucky	2020		X			
Maine	2020		X	X		
Maryland	2020		X		X	
Michigan	2020		X	X		
New Hampshire	2020		X	X		
North Carolina	2020		X			
Ohio	2020		X			
Pennsylvania	2020		X			
Tennessee	2020			X		
Utah	2020	X	X			
Washington	2020		X	X	X	
West Virginia	2020		X			
Wisconsin	2020		X		X	
TOTAL		5	18	6	6	2

Based on state reports, last updated January 2021