

## THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES NATIONAL NETWORK

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

### **For those implementing Strengthening Families on the Ground:**

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 a Strengthening Families initiative:**

Any state, territory, county, city or community that is committed to implementing the Protective Factors Framework into programs and systems serving young children and their families may become a member of the Strengthening Families National Network.

Benefits of membership include:

- Monthly networking calls co-facilitated by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
- Technical assistance via phone and e-mail
- State Leader Updates with information about new funding opportunities and resources to help position and deepen your Strengthening Families efforts
- Opportunities to participate in webinars and peer learning activities related to specific Strengthening Families implementation topics
- The ability to run reports on aggregate data from the online suite of tools, including the self-assessment, Protective Factors Survey and Staff Survey
- 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](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net).

## National Partners

Nearly a dozen national organizations have embraced the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and working to support their constituencies in implementing Strengthening Families.

The national partners—convened by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, developers of the approach—work closely 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.

## Current National Partners

- The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
- FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
- BUILD: Strong Foundations for Children
- Child Care Aware USA
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center
- Parents Anonymous
- Parents as Teachers
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- United Way Worldwide
- ZERO TO THREE

There is no membership fee. In order to be a member, states and jurisdictions must commit to:

- Submitting a brief application (download the form [here](#))
- Reporting annually on a small set of data reflecting implementation, including investments in Strengthening Families, 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](#)

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. With an increasing number of cities, counties and other jurisdictions implementing Strengthening Families, non-state initiatives were able to join the network for the first time in 2013. These are counties, cities or smaller communities that have a significant Strengthening Families agenda. Jurisdictional initiatives located in states with active state-level Strengthening Families initiatives maintain connections with their state Strengthening Families leaders to allow for aggregation of data, coordination of efforts and strategic collaboration to advance changes in policies and systems.

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