



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPLEMENTATION IN CHILD WELFARE

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

### How Strengthening Families is used in Child Welfare

States and communities are implementing Strengthening Families in Child Welfare in several different ways. Key strategies states and communities have used include:

- The Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework are integrated into training for child welfare workers.
- The Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework are integrated into training for foster parents.
- The Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework are part of the child welfare practice model.
- The Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework are integrated into assessment tools.
- The Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework are being used in differential response efforts in the child welfare system.
- Partnerships have been formed between child welfare and early care and education programs using the Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework.
- The state has a Title IV-E waiver that includes a Strengthening Families approach.

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



## Implementation in Child Welfare: 2014

State	Training for child welfare workers	Training for foster parents	Child welfare practice model	Assessment tools	Differential response	New partnerships with early care and education	Title IV-E waiver
AK						X	
AL	X			X		X	
AR	X	X	X	X	X	X	
CA			X	X	X	X	
CO	X		X		X		
CT	X	X	X	X		X	
FL						X	
GA						X	
GUAM	X	X					
IL	X	X	X	X	X	X	
KS		X	X				
KY						X	
MA				X	X		X
MI	X					X	X
MN	X	X	X	X	X	X	
MO		X					
NC	X		X		X	X	
NH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NJ	X		X			X	
OK						X	
PA	X		X			X	X
SC	X	X			X	X	
RI	X		X		X	X	
UT	X		X	X			X
VT	X						
WI	X		X	X			X
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>

*Based on state reports, last updated July 2014*