



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPLEMENTATION IN HOME VISITING

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 Home Visiting**

States and communities are implementing Strengthening Families in Home Visiting in several different ways. Key strategies include:

- Strengthening Families is part of the state plan under the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program.
- Strengthening Families and the Protective Factors Framework are used as a common frame across multiple home visiting programs and/or models.
- Strengthening Families and the Protective Factors Framework are used in intake and/or referral systems for home visiting services.
- Specific training on Strengthening Families and the Protective Factors Framework is provided to home visitors.
- Families receiving home visiting are referred to other child and family serving programs using a Strengthening Families protective factors frame.

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 Home Visiting: 2014

State	Part of state MIECHV plan	Common frame across models	Intake and referral services	Training for home visitors	Participating families referred to other programs using PFF
AK		X			
AL	X	X		X	
AR		X	X	X	X
CA	X	X		X	X
CO	X	X			
CT				X	X
FL		X			X
GA	X	X		X	X
GUAM	X	X		X	
ID		X		X	
IL				X	X
KS		X	X	X	
KY	X				
MA	X	X		X	X
MD				X	X
MN	X				
MO	X				X
NH	X	X	X	X	X
NJ	X	X	X	X	X
PA	X			X	
RI				X	
TN	X	X	X	X	
SC	X	X		X	
UT				X	X
WA	X				
WI	X				
WV	X	X		X	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>

*Based on state reports, last updated July 2014*