



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPLEMENTATION IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

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 Early Care and Education

States and communities are implementing Strengthening Families in Early Care and Education in several different ways. Key strategies include:

- The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework is integrated into state Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). (Integration strategies vary by state.)
- The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework is used in State Early Learning and Development Advisory Council planning and policy efforts.
- The child care resource and referral (CCR&R) network is engaged in professional development and support for programs that are implementing the Strengthening Families approach.
- The Strengthening Families approach and Protective Factors Framework is integrated into state early care and education workforce knowledge and competency framework.
- The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework is used in Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) planning and/or other early childhood systems development efforts.
- The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework is used to support family, friend and neighbor care providers (also referred to as informal or license-exempt child care providers).

The grid on the following page shows which of these strategies states report using in their implementation of Strengthening Families.

### Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families<sup>™</sup> 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 Early Care & Education

State	Last updated	Quality Rating and Improvement System*	Early Childhood Advisory Council	Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)	Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework	Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) planning	Family, Friend & Neighbor care
AK	2014		X	X	X	X	X
AL	2015	X	X	X	X	X	
AR	2014	X					X
CA	2015	X	X	X		X	
CO	2015			X	X	X	X
CT	2015		X	X	X	X	X
FL	2014			X	X	X	
GA	2015	X		X	X		
GU	2015					X	
ID	2016	X	X	X	X		
IL	2014			X	X	X	X
KS	2015		X	X		X	X
KY	2016	X	X			X	
MA	2014	X			X	X	X
MD	2015		X	X			X
ME	2014		X				
MI	2016	X		X		X	
MN	2014	X		X			X
MO	2016		X	X	X	X	X
NC	2015					X	
NH	2014	X	X	X	X	X	X
NJ	2016	X	X	X	X	X	X
NY	2014	X					
OH	2015	X		X		X	X
OK	2014		X	X		X	
PA	2016		X	X	X		X
RI	2014						X
SC	2015		X	X	X	X	
TN	2014	X		X		X	
UT	2016	X	X	X	X	X	X
WA	2016	X		X	X		X
WI	2015	X		X	X		
WV	2015		X	X	X	X	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>

\* This includes states that have integrated Strengthening Families into QRIS that have not yet been implemented.

Based on state reports, last updated November 2016