

# strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

## missouri

strengthening families national network partner

### LEAD AGENCY

Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network  
P.O. Box 223  
Greenwood, MO 64034  
913-302-0488

### ASPECTS OF MISSOURI'S APPROACH

Include the Protective Factors into a curriculum written by Parents as Teachers National Center for the Missouri Department of Health and offered to all 3,000 licensed child care providers in the state

Explore ways in which Strengthening Families can be incorporated into policy, training, and front-line services for child welfare

Offer cross-training for child welfare workers and early childhood professionals

Pilot Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education in six child care centers and provide technical assistance and training in Zero to Three's *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: Partnering with Parents* curriculum through the Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Participate in Zero to Three's State Partnerships for Prevention training initiative

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Develop a specific plan for engaging child care centers in Strengthening Families, using lessons learned from pilot sites, and engaging staff from pilot sites in mentoring and coaching

Work towards revision of the state's Quality Rating System to incorporate the Protective Factors

Build a dedicated staff, including a Program Manager, working to make Missouri's Strengthening Families Initiative more organized and effective

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES NATIONAL NETWORK

With funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the SFNN, brings together states, territories, and tribes implementing Strengthening Families with national organizations embedding the approach into their work.

**Partners** in the SFNN have deep, broad-based Strengthening Families initiatives across multiple systems in the state, and have a leadership role in the network. 9 states are partners in the SFNN.

**Affiliates** in the SFNN are strongly committed to Strengthening Families and are working towards implementation of approach at the state level. 14 states are affiliates in the SFNN.

For more about Strengthening Families visit [www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net)

February 2008

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## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Both the Children's Trust Fund and the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services have emphasized parent involvement in existing initiatives and programs. Participants in these initiatives and programs are encouraged to develop opportunities for parents to participate, engage with other parents, and form parent support groups.

In 2008, Missouri's Strengthening Families leadership team will begin to develop a formal plan for parent engagement.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Child Care Resource and Referral system currently plans to deliver at least 180 hours of training to Missouri child care providers in the next year. An additional 4,200 hours will also be devoted to presenting and Introduction to the Protective Factors training and assisting Missouri child care providers in building the Protective Factors in families.

In addition, other quality improvement initiatives, such as the Education and Accreditation Facilitation Project are ensuring that participants are introduced to the Protective Factors.

At least 8 early care and education centers in Washington were using the Strengthening Families Self Assessment in 2007.

In 2008, at least 12 early care and education providers serving 790 children will complete the Strengthening Families Self Assessment.

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

The current Missouri Early Childhood Strategic Plan incorporates and stresses the Strengthening Families framework. Recent requests for proposals from all of the state departments that fund early childhood initiatives have included the requirement that proposed grant usage support the Strengthening Families framework and the Protective Factors.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

Both the Children's Trust Fund and the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services are key partners in Missouri's Strengthening Families initiative. Strengthening Families and the Protective Factors are being integrated into their activities, programs, and trainings.

Funding, staff time, and in-kind resources for Strengthening Families Missouri have been provided by:

- Children's Division of the Department of Social Services
- Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
- Center for the Study of Social Policy

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## CHILD WELFARE

A workgroup staffed by professionals from both child welfare and early childhood, along with trainers from the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services are exploring ways to incorporate Strengthening Families and the Protective Factors into policies, trainings, and child welfare practices. To build linkages between the two systems, child welfare workers and early childhood professionals are receiving cross-training

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