

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

wisconsin

strengthening families national network partner

LEAD AGENCY

Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund
110 E. Main Street, Suite 810
Madison, WI 53703
608-266-3737

ASPECTS OF WISCONSIN'S APPROACH

Train providers in licensed group early care and education centers on Strengthening Families

Provide trainers with new, focused material through the original curriculum, "Building Protective Factors with Families," designed to help them reach more early care and education providers and reinforce prior trainings on the Protective Factors

Select five pilot counties to explore and expand linkages between early care and education and child welfare

Work on a state-level to build partnerships between early care and education providers and child welfare workers

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Continue work to bolster linkages between early care and education and child welfare at the state and county levels, including integrating the philosophy of Strengthening Families into the new Department of Children and Families

Support early care and education programs in learning about Strengthening Families, completing the Self Assessment, and building Protective Factors

Improve professional development coordination

Integrate Strengthening Families into the Quality Services Review for Wisconsin counties, and appropriately prepare counties for new criteria

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 comprehensive implementation of the approach at the state level. 14 states are affiliates in the SFNN.

For more about Strengthening Families
visit www.strengtheningfamilies.net

February 2008

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Wisconsin's Strengthening Families team is engaged in conversations about implementing Parent Cafés and other parent engagement activities at the local level, providing a pool of parent who might be interested in increasing their involvement in the statewide Strengthening Families initiative.

Currently, several of the five counties exploring linkages between early care and education and child welfare are incorporating the Protective Factors into foster parent training and are engaging birth parents and foster parents in Strengthening Families activities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening Families and the Protective Factors have been incorporated into professional development in both higher education and ongoing trainings across Wisconsin. An award-winning curriculum for early care and education providers that included Strengthening Families information reached 868 providers in 2007. Also, at technical colleges across the state, the Protective Factors will be built into the Early Childhood Administrator Credential in 2008.

Other Strengthening Families-based trainings include Wisconsin's original curriculum, "Building Protective Factors with Families," which reached 2,117 center-based child care providers from 812 centers in 2005-2006, and a two-day, intensive professional development opportunity provided by the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health.

186 early care and education programs in Wisconsin are currently using the Strengthening Families Self Assessment

In 2008, even more centers will be using the Strengthening Families Self Assessment, reaching over 10,000 children.

For more about Strengthening Families visit www.strengtheningfamilies.net

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Strengthening Families Wisconsin is part of Wisconsin's Early Childhood Collaborating Partners, who are responsible for implementing the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems plan for the state. Strengthening Families has thus been connected to all major early childhood initiatives in the state.

Additionally, Strengthening Families has been integrated into a number of specific initiatives, including an Early Childhood Special Education grant through Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction. Early Childhood Special Education program support coaches are being trained in the "Building Protective Factors with Families" curriculum so that they may train early childhood special education teachers in their areas.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

Strengthening Families Wisconsin is led by the Children's Trust Fund and has a robust partnership with other child abuse and neglect prevention entities, including the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, Wisconsin's major private funder of child abuse prevention activities. Strengthening Families was the impetus for the restructuring of the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network into the Supporting Families Together Association, with a broader mission and broader membership that includes family resources centers

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

- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Child Abuse Prevention Fund
- Children's Trust Fund
- Department of Health and Family Services: Division of Children and Family Services, Safe and Stable Families
- Department of Workforce Development

For more about Strengthening Families visit www.strengtheningfamilies.net

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

CHILD WELFARE

As one of three states receiving funding from the Arthur L. Mailman Foundation to explore and expand linkages between early care and education and child welfare, Wisconsin has selected five counties to pilot new strategies in this area. Strengthening Families Wisconsin recently distributed grants to the pilot counties to implement activities to enhance relationships between early childhood and child welfare systems at a local level.

At the state level, the team is examining how Strengthening Families, the Protective Factors, and partnership with early care and education can benefit children, families, and professionals across the child welfare continuum. One particular area of focus has been the infusion of Strengthening Families into the state's Quality Services Review.

For more about Strengthening Families
visit www.strengtheningfamilies.net