

The New York State Family Resource Center Network

The New York State Family Resource Center Network offers early and comprehensive support for parents/caregivers of young children. Culturally competent services emphasize education in informal settings that promote positive parenting, healthy child development and family self-sufficiency. Using community needs assessments and peer reviews, each Family Resource Center (FRC) is customized to meet its community's needs. FRC programs emphasize building family strengths and abilities in order to maximize the capacity of families to take care of themselves, raise healthy children and contribute to their community. Provision of support before families become high-risk or abusive is both potent and cost effective.

Societal Expectations

Research has identified three key societal expectations of parents:

- To provide for basic needs and keep children physically and psychologically safe,
- To guide children's physical and psychological development,
- To advocate on children's behalf within the wider community.

Underlying Conditions

Regardless of socio-economic status, all families experience risk factors or circumstances that diminish their capacity to meet these expectations. These factors are compounded for families experiencing geographic or social isolation, economic challenges, limited education or employment opportunities, inexperience with positive parenting techniques, or physical or mental health issues.

Target Populations

While the NYS Family Resource Center Network targets all families, special emphasis is placed on:

- Young children, ages 0-5.
- Families involved with the child welfare system.
- Families at-risk for child abuse or neglect.

Activities

Family Support & Education

- Information and referral
- Adult education classes
- Job readiness programs
- Life skills education
- ESL/citizenship services and supports
- Basic needs, food/clothing pantries
- Literacy services, lending library
- Child care during adult activities
- Respite child care services
- Health and developmental screenings, including Early Intervention
- Drop-in play, play groups
- Preschool/early childhood education
- Parenting education
- Family support and counseling
- Group support (adult & child)
- Home visits

Community Support & Education

- Trainings for providers
- Interagency collaboration
- Supervised visitation
- Family social/recreational programs
- Transportation to/from FRC or other community services
- Youth development groups and clubs
- Public awareness campaigns and community presentations

Advocacy & Empowerment

- Active intervention or liaison services on behalf of family
- Parent leadership, peer learning and employment opportunities within FRCs
- Parent participation on FRC boards
- Peer reviews and family engagement
- Advocacy training for parents

Intermediate Outcomes

Family Support & Education

- Increase parents' knowledge of child development and use of positive parenting techniques.
- Increase positive interactions between parents and children.
- Establish sustainable connections between parents.
- Earlier identification of developmental disabilities.
- Increase enrollment in health insurance, referrals to health care, immunization rates

Community Support & Education

- Reduce social isolation.
- Improve availability of and access to community resources to meet families' basic needs.
- Raise awareness of family health and safety through community education.

Advocacy

- Increase parent leadership roles.
- Increase parents' sense of confidence and empowerment in advocating for themselves and their children
- Increase parent engagement in community and neighborhood activities.

Long-Term Outcomes:

- ✓ Prevent child abuse and neglect.
- ✓ Improve parenting practices that minimize risk factors and promote healthy child development.
- ✓ Improve child development and school readiness.
- ✓ Reduce child welfare involvement and prevent out-of-home placements.
- ✓ Empower families to help build strong neighborhoods and interconnected communities.

Core Values: Strength-Based / Social Support / Cultural Competence / Empowerment