



## ***Child and Family Service Reviews & Family Support Services***

Safety, Permanency, and Family and Child Well-Being are the intended outcomes of the Child and Family Service (CFS) review process. Increasingly, the Child Welfare system is recognizing the value of family support services in achieving these outcomes for all families and children. This is especially true when Child Protective Service investigations discover family situations in which the risks are not severe enough to be referred to the legal system, but in which there are definite risk factors that need to be addressed in some other manner. Some states have set up dual track or differential response systems which formalize the relationship between child welfare services and family support services. In other states, the relationship is a less formal, information and referral type of arrangement. In either case, CPS workers depend on their relationship with and knowledge of family support service providers to ensure the safety, permanency and well being of children whose risk of maltreatment is real, but not serious enough to be referred to the judicial system. It is therefore likely that at least in some states, CFS reviews and Program Improvement Plans will address states' systems of family support services.

### **Family Support Training and Technical Assistance**

The FRIENDS National Resource Center can assist those participating in CFS Reviews and implementing Program Improvement Plans. The FRIENDS NRC responds to a wide variety of requests for T/TA related to family support programs, including—

#### ***Family support programming***

- Respite and Crisis Care, Mutual Parent Support, Parent Education, Home Visiting, and Family Resource Centers for families of children who are at risk of child abuse and neglect
- Funding of family support programs—diversified, stable, flexible, blended, and leveraged
- Statewide service inventories, based on CBFRS programs' annual statewide inventories of family support services and service gaps

#### ***Family support program evaluation***

- Outcome accountability, based on FRIENDS *Outcome Accountability for Family Support Programs*—reference manual, workbook, worksheets and instruments
- Strengths based family support evaluation, based on the Promotional Indicators initiative
- Prevention programs that work, coordinating with OCAN/Caliber best practices initiative
- Peer review, based on FRIENDS Guidelines for Peer Review

#### ***Preventing the abuse of children with disabilities***

- Capacity building, based on FRIENDS Factsheet *Supporting Children with Disabilities and their Families*, and Inclusion/accessibility self-assessment checklist

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### ***Working effectively with diverse populations***

- Capacity building for cultural competency

### ***Parent involvement/leadership***

- Supporting meaningful parent involvement/leadership, based on *Making Room at the Table*

### ***Family support and the child welfare system***

- Dual track/differential response—strengthening partnerships/facilitating referrals/improving coordination between the child welfare system and family support programs
- Systems change/statewide prevention networks

### ***Promoting awareness of prevention***

- Child Abuse Prevention Month—promoting awareness of the problem and solutions

When, in the course of the CFS review and Program Improvement Plan process, there are requests for T/TA with which the FRIENDS National Resource Center for CBFRS may be able to assist, please contact FRIENDS, the CBFRS State Lead Agency, or the Regional Office.

## **Community Based Family Resource and Support Program**

The CBFRS program was established by Title II of CAPTA Amendments of 1996. The purpose of the CBFRS program is to support States' efforts to create and support statewide networks of community-based, family-centered, prevention-focused family resource and support programs, in order to strengthen families and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

In each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, CBFRS programs provide services to at-risk children and families, designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. CBFRS services are targeted to the general population, populations identified as being at greater risk of child maltreatment, and to individual families with a history of child maltreatment.

## **FRIENDS National Resource Center for CBFRS Programs**

FRIENDS is the National Resource Center for the Community Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS) Programs, under a cooperative agreement with HHS/ACYF/OCAN. FRIENDS assists and supports the CBFRS state lead agencies by providing training, technical assistance and information to promote the purposes of the CBFRS program. FRIENDS is a collaborative effort between two organizations with many years of experience in delivering training and technical assistance: Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project, Inc. and Family Support America. FRIENDS offers a range of services designed to assist states, tribes and tribal organizations, migrant programs and local programs in the development of community-based family resource and support programs and statewide prevention networks throughout the United States.

For more information, please contact—

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