

# The Journey of Building the South Carolina Family Resource Center Network

Children's Trust of South Carolina is committed to **strengthening** families and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect through effective, sustainable and innovative approaches. In 2016, Children's Trust began to explore the model of family resource centers (FRCs) within South Carolina. FRCs are direct service organizations who work from a strengths-based, family-centered approach. These centers provide families in the community with information, parenting education classes, prevention programs and other multi-generational supports.

Through data collection, surveys and conversations with FRCs and the National Family Support Network (NFSN), Children's Trust recognized the value of FRCs and their family strengthening functions. The National Family Support Network is a membership-based organization comprised of state Networks who work collaboratively to promote and coordinate high quality support for all families. In August of 2020, Children's Trust became the representative state organization of the NFSN.

In July of 2021, Children's Trust began convening FRC partners and supportive partners at the state level to foster peer learning, collaborative work, and capacity building for effective service deliverables and overall better support for families across the state. Since then, we have created network guidelines, including mission, vision and values. The network also utilizes the NFSN's Standards of Quality (Standards) for Family Strengthening and Support to guide the network's community of practice.

Children's Trust has hosted the nationally adopted Standards, as developed by the National Family Support Network. The Standards were designed with the purpose to provide common language across sectors to ensure that families are receiving quality practice. The Standards are organized into five areas of practice with fifteen standards, each with foundational and high-quality indicators and implementation examples. The Standards are a guiding practice and provide a foundation of support to the South Carolina FRC Network.

As the South Carolina Family Resource Network continues to strengthen, so does the support and services for families. By fall 2022, Children's Trust will connect FRCs to funding opportunities through requests for proposals to facilitate prevention services. This will include home visiting such as Healthy Families America, or parent education programs such as Strengthening Families program, and Triple P (Positive Parenting Program).

Through equity, trust, innovation and leadership, Children's Trust will continue to engage FRCs and supportive partners who are integral in sustaining this work and helping scale statewide impact. Children's Trust's long-term goal is to support the expansion of the FRC Network into rural communities and engage parent leaders by 2025.