

December 2019 PLC:
CSSP's Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework

December 11, 2019





Strengthening Families: Updates and opportunities for CBCAP leads

Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy
December 11, 2019



**Center for the
Study of Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

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What we'll cover today

- Brief review: What Strengthening Families is all about
- The Strengthening Families National Network: Opportunities for CBCAP leads
- Strategic planning and new developments

Risk factors
are not
predictive factors
because of
protective factors

Children don't grow up in
programs...

They grow up in **families**
and in **communities.**

Four “big ideas” behind Strengthening Families

Focus on protective factors

An approach, not a model

A changed relationship with parents

Alignment with developmental science

Family Protective Factors

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Parental resilience

Social connections

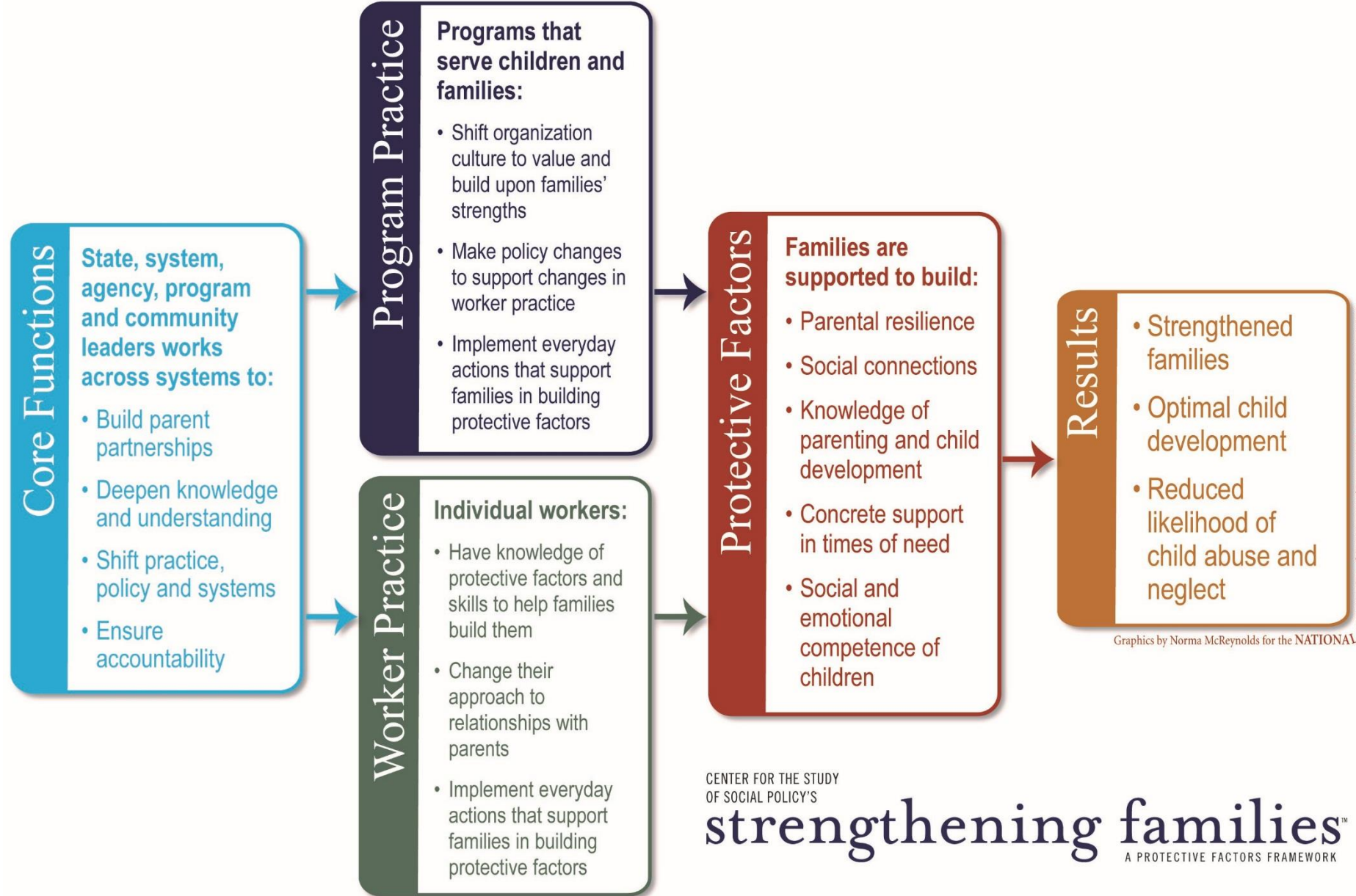
Knowledge of
parenting and child
development

Concrete support in
times of need

Social and
emotional
competence of
children

The Pathway to Improved Outcomes for Children and Families

Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework Logic Model



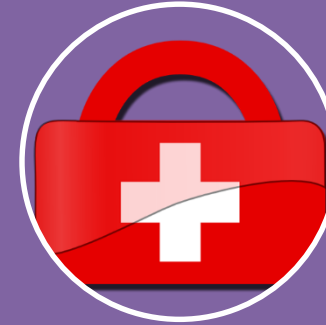
A family support system: What does it look like?



Light touch family support in the settings families are in every day



Connections to and support from dedicated family support resources



Connections to more intensive services when needed

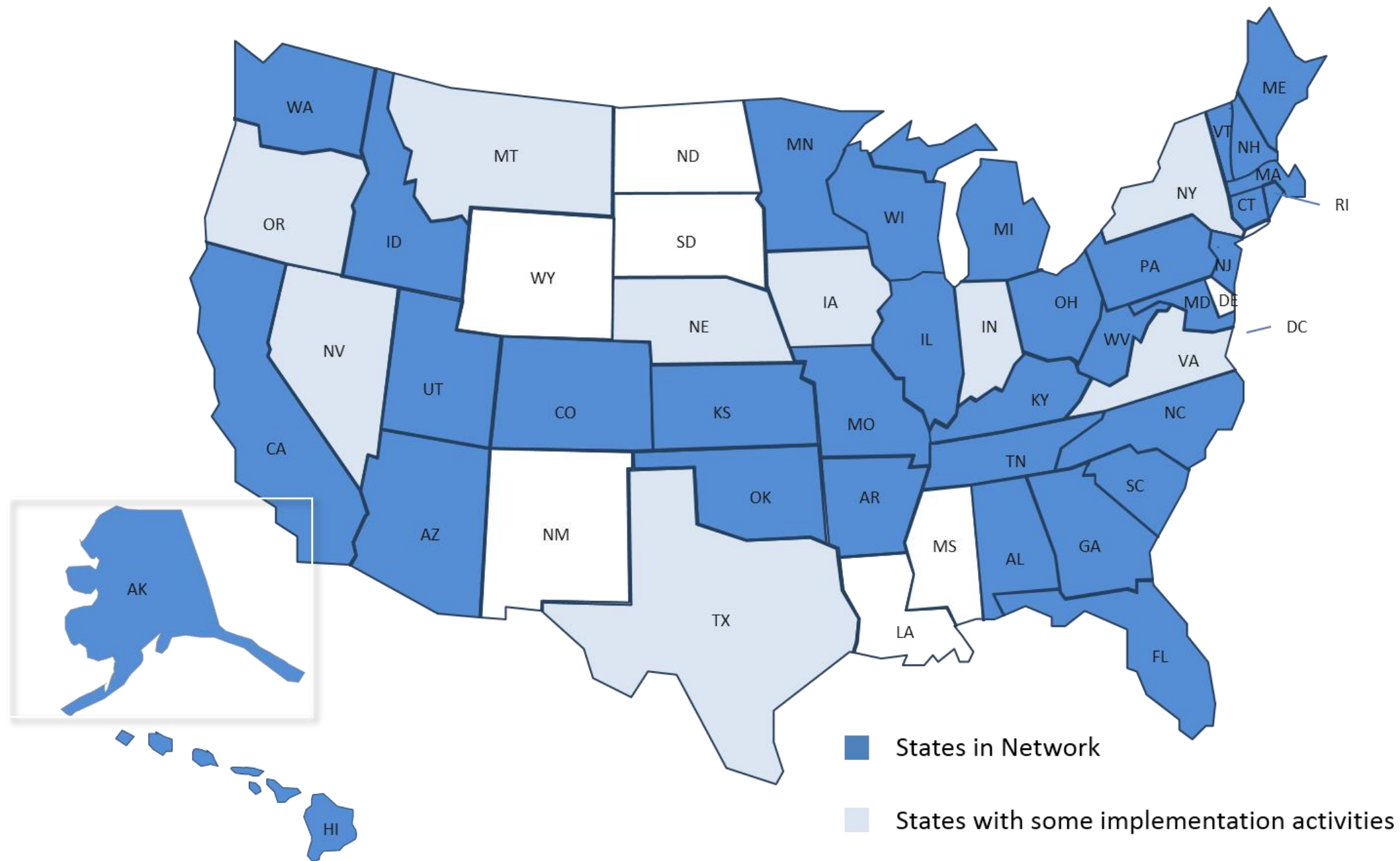


Navigation supports to help make the connections

Common language and commitment to helping families build protective factors

The Strengthening Families National Network

- 35 states that are actively engaged in statewide, cross-systems implementation of Strengthening Families
- Wide variety in how much they are coordinating, which systems are involved and how deeply, which system is in the lead, etc.
- Membership is free, with the expectation that members:
 - Provide 1-4 state leads to be the contact to CSSP
 - Complete and maintain a state profile, posted on cssp.org
 - Respond to periodic requests for information about activities



Updates to SFNN state information

- Will be reaching out to all Strengthening Families state leads to update information in early 2020
- Need up-to-date info for funding proposals and other activities coming up
- Will remove states from the network if they are no longer active/responsive
- Would love to add some as well! If your state is ready, contact cailin.oconnor@cssp.org

Opportunities to engage and learn more

- Webinars: Second Thursday of each month, 3:00-4:00 ET – join and/or invite others when the topic is of interest
 - December 12: Building Protective Factors in Child Health Services through Help Me Grow
 - Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5738677043334240780>
- Newsletter: *Strengthening Families eUpdate*
 - Subscribe from www.cssp.org (“Stay Informed” at bottom of page)
- Together for Families Conference
 - October 13-16, 2020, in Seattle
 - <https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/together-for-families-conference>

Developing a new strategic plan for Strengthening Families

Goal: Develop a collective Strengthening Families strategic plan for CSSP and our partners at the national, state, and local level

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Developing the plan

- Co-creating the plan with input from many stakeholders:
 - Fall 2017 survey about current implementation and future directions (313 responses)
 - Parent focus group, Jan. 2019
 - “Strengthening Families Champions” meeting, Feb. 2019
 - Feedback from the field on draft plan, spring 2019
- Looking for partners at all levels to find opportunities to implement parts of the strategic plan – on their own or in partnership with CSSP as the “backbone” organization
- Seeking funding for pieces and parts of the plan

Built around Core Functions of Strengthening Families Implementation

- Build an infrastructure to advance and sustain the work
- Build parent partnerships
- Deepen knowledge and understanding of the protective factors approach
- Shift practice, policy and systems toward a protective factors approach
- Ensure accountability

Themes

- Community protective factors
- Race equity and social justice
- Strengthening Families Summit
- Protective factors and ACEs
- Communications and messaging
- Supporting integration into practice
- Need for evaluation and support for evaluators

Current focus

- Refreshing Strengthening Families materials
 - Partner: University of Kansas
 - Goal: Update the logic model and materials to reflect most recent scientific and theoretical understanding (Early Relational Health, positive childhood experiences/HOPE), and incorporate a stronger emphasis on advancing equity with a protective factors approach
- Community protective factors
 - Partners: 90by30 (University of Oregon) and Safe & Sound (San Francisco)
 - Goal: Identify community protective factors based on a survey of current efforts in the field and literature review
 - Look for a survey soon – please share widely!



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Implementation of New Jersey's Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework

Sharon D. Budka, M.S.W.

December 11, 2019



www.nj.gov/dcf



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Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework (SF PFF)

The NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF) structures its practice models and purchased services to promote and implement the five (5) protective factors.



SF PFF Continued

DCF provide training in the “Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work” curriculum that was developed by the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds through the partnership with:

- Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P)
- Division of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP), and with
- Rutgers School of Social Work, Institute for Families



Protective Factors Framework Training

In FFY2019 a total of 1,329 professional were trained.

- DCP&P Workers: 69%
- Early Childhood Services Providers: 20%
- Representatives of Family Support Networks: 6%
- Staff members of Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Substance Use & Recovery, and Health Services: 4%
- Other State Agencies: 1%



Early Childhood Improving Outcomes Initiative

Early Childhood Improving Outcomes Initiative

Requires substantial collaboration among DFCEP, DCP&P and community providers in the following areas:

- staff development
- enhanced planning
- assessment
- service access, and
- systems collaboration



Plans of Safe Care

In February 2018, in response to the changes in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), New Jersey incorporated Plans of Safe Care for substance affected infants into the “Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work” curriculum. Plans of Safe Care was also incorporated into the Early Childhood Improving Outcomes Initiative case conferences.



Books, Balls, & Blocks (BBB)

- Books, Balls, & Blocks (BBB) was developed by Help Me Grow Utah. It is an interactive parent event that allows the community a fun and entertaining venue to provide information about the Protective Factors Framework, child development, developmental screenings [ASQ-3 & ASQ-SE], and community resources.
- BBB includes activity stations revolving around books (emergent literacy), balls (gross and fine motor and problem-solving skills) and blocks (emergent math and fine motor skills).



Books, Balls, & Blocks (BBB)

- Books, Balls, & Blocks is a partnership between DCF and the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DFD) with the contracted services of the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R) and the Children Specialized Hospital.





Components of a BBB

- Standardized Developmental Screening Tool: ASQ-3/ASQ-SE.
- Private/semi-private space to share ASQ-3 results.
- Activity Stations: Books, Balls, & Blocks, and/or by age and domains.
- Tables: Welcome, Parent Resources, Resource Vendor/Volunteer, & Strengthening Families Protective Factors.



Core Elements of a BBB Event

- Identify key early child development partners to participate in the planning and implement the BBB event.
- Develop a work plan to organize the BBB.
- Recruit and train volunteers (parents and community partners) to engage and host interactive activities with families during the BBB event.



Core Elements of a BBB Event Cont.

- Recruit community programs as vendors to share their resources with families attending the BBB.
- Assist parents to observe their child's play, complete, score, provide summary of the ASQ-3 results and make referrals to services if needed.
- Evaluate each event to inform the next BBB event.



Questions?

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