

# New York State Office of Children and Family Services



The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) lead agency and serves New York State's public by promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of children, families and communities. OCFS is dedicated to improving the integration of services for New York's children, youth, families, and vulnerable populations.

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) provide families access to the programs and resources needed to help children grow into healthy and productive members of their communities. FRCs are one type of program implemented with CBCAP funds. Families are at the center of FRCs, with parent involvement, parent choice, and parent leadership being key to their success.

**FRCs in New York** and across the United States share six uniform program design features that research and evaluation associate with effective prevention of child abuse and neglect and positive outcomes for families:

1. Deliver flexible services responsive to families and to the community
2. Are universally available with no eligibility criteria
3. Provide welcoming and accessible places in the community
4. Offer comprehensive, varied, and integrated services
5. Link families to other local resources
6. Partner with families and other community services

**FRCs across the nation have demonstrated success in strengthening protective factors and reducing risk of child maltreatment. Evaluation findings from various FRC programs in the United States have shown:<sup>1</sup>**

- FRC services contributed to a 45% reduction in cases of child abuse and neglect.
- FRC services contributed to a 20% increase in parents' self-reports of their ability to keep children in their care safe from abuse.
- FRC services resulted in statistically significant gains in family self-sufficiency.
- Communities with FRCs had significantly lower rates of child maltreatment investigations than communities without FRCs.

## **INVESTMENT IN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS<sup>2</sup>**



In Alabama, an analysis of short-term and long-term impacts shows that for every \$1 invested in the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers, the state of Alabama received \$4.70 in immediate and long-term financial benefits.

# Family Resource Centers in New York Make a Difference

*This program gave me the tools and knowledge to teach discipline, and the work I put in shows in my children's growth, behavior and development.*

- FRC Participant

Research has shown that building on five protective factors with families reduces child abuse and neglect, and also increases family stability and enhances child development.<sup>3</sup> The five protective factors are: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social emotional competence. Evaluations of eight FRCs in New York have found that families using FRC services show improvement in these protective factors.

**Data from New York's Protective Factors Instrument (PFI) shows that those at the highest risk<sup>4</sup> of child abuse and neglect are getting the most benefit from FRCs in New York State. FRCs are helping these high risk parents improve their Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Supports, and Nurturing and Attachment.\***



Average PFI scores across ALL FRC participants showed a **12% increase in Parental Resilience** after receiving FRC services. Families who were at higher risk **improved their Parental Resilience by 31%**.



Average PFI scores across ALL FRC participants showed a **12% increase in Social Connections** after receiving FRC services. Families who were at higher risk **improved their Social Connections by 32%**.



Average PFI scores across ALL FRC participants showed a **13% increase in Concrete Supports** after receiving FRC services. Families who were at higher risk **improved their Concrete Supports by 33%**.



Average PFI scores across ALL FRC participants showed an **11% increase in Nurturing and Attachment** after receiving FRC services. Families who were at higher risk **improved their Nurturing and Attachment by 31%**.

\*Given the diversity of activities assessed by the Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development items in the PFI, a score is not calculated for that subscale. These items are assessed for change individually and are not reported in this analysis. Social Emotional Competence of Children is called "Nurturing and Attachment" in the PFI.

*I have become a more confident parent because of the support and encouragement I have received here.*

-FRC Participant

*This program has helped me connect more with my child through play and strengthen our attachment.*

-FRC Participant

Currently, there are six FRCs funded across New York State: CCE Tioga, Niagara Falls City School District, ProAction of Steuben and Yates, Rising Ground, Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, and Child Care Coordination Council of the North Country.



This brief was created in partnership with FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.



**Office of Children and Family Services**

1 Casey Family Programs (2019). Do place-based programs, such as Family Resource Centers, reduce risk of child maltreatment and entry into foster care? (APPENDIX)

<https://www.casey.org/family-resource-centers-appendix/>.

2 Casey Family Programs (2019). Do place-based programs, such as Family Resource Centers, reduce risk of child maltreatment and entry into foster care? <https://www.casey.org/family-resource-centers>.

3 <https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/>.

4 High Risk Families are those that score a 2.9 or lower on any of the four subscales of the Protective Factors Instrument (PFI) pretest.