What is a Family Resource Center?

A community or school-based welcoming hub of support, services, and opportunities for families that:

- Utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered
- Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests
- Provides support at no or low cost for participants
- Builds communities of peer support for families to develop social connections that reduce isolation and stress

What do FRCs do?

- Enhance parenting skills
- Foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase school readiness
- Connect families to resources
- Develop parent and community leadership
- Engage males and fathers
- Support healthy marital and couples relationships
- Promote family economic success

What are the goals of a FRC?

- To support families to be strong, healthy, and successful
- To contribute to building a strong and healthy community
- To reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by building the research-based Strengthening Families Protective Factors[1]

What services do FRCs most commonly offer?[2]

- Parenting Support
- Access to Resources
- Child Development Activities
- Parent Leadership Development

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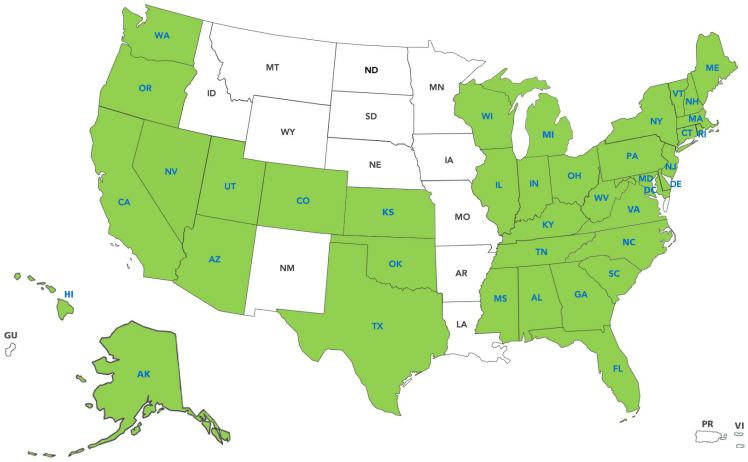
What outcomes do FRCs achieve?

- $4.93 Social Return on Investment for every dollar invested [3]
- $3.65 savings for the child welfare system for every dollar invested [4]

- 63% reduction of child abuse cases [5]
- 50% reduction of out of home placements [6]
- 26% lower rates of community-level child abuse investigations [7]

- Gains in economic self-sufficiency, health, social support, family functioning and resiliency, child nurturing and healthy attachment [8]
- Improvments in children's educational success [9]

Which states have invested in Networks of FRCs?



Did you know?

- Although there is no dedicated federal funding for Family Resource Centers, there are more than 3,000 of them nationwide in 38 states and the District of Columbia that serve more than 2 million people annually.
- The heritage of Family Resource Centers in the U.S. goes back to the establishment of Settlement Houses in the late 1800s to support new immigrants to succeed.

Good Samaritan Settlement House
San Francisco, CA
1913

Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
today

What does it cost to run a FRC?

FRC budgets vary across the country in relation to local costs of living, specific programming, and physical space.

- A typical community-based New Jersey Success Center has an annual budget of $240,000 to $300,000 with 3-4 full-time staff.
- A school-based FRC in Kentucky has an annual budget of $33,000-$82,000 with 1-2 full-time staff and space and other resources provided in-kind.

Sources:

[1] Center for the Study of Social Policy. (2005). Strengthening Families: A Protective Factors Framework.
[2] OMNI Institute. (2016). Advancing the Family Support & Strengthening Field Project Survey Results.
[3] Community Services Analysis LLC. (2014). Social Return on Investment Study.
[4] OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Westminster Family Resource Center, Orange County, CA.
[5] OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Community Partnership Family Resource Center, Teller County, CO.
[6] Colorado Community Response Evaluation Findings 2014-2018.
[7] Chapin Hall. (2018). Do Family Support Centers Reduce Maltreatment Investigations? Evidence from Allegheny County.
[8] Family Pathways & CFSA 2.0 Evaluation Report - Executive Summary 2019.
[9] Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Services Centers.

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