

Strong Families, Resilient Neighborhoods – SB-964

Strong Families, Resilient Neighborhoods is a community mobilization movement designed to promote the positive development of children, strengthen families and build resilient neighborhoods.



Aspirational Goal

Strengthen families and build more resilient neighborhoods in Marion County to improve children's safety, health, education and wellness outcomes.

The Problem

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), without the buffering effect of safe, stable, nurturing relationships, dramatically increase the risk of chronic health problems, failure at school, and life-long poverty.
- Community efforts aimed at promoting the positive development of children, strengthening families and building more resilient neighborhoods face sustainable funding challenges.

- New funding mechanisms and policy proposals are needed to break free of grant cycle constraints and create sustainable financial support for positive child safety, health and education outcomes.
- Innovative demonstration projects that can be scaled to other communities are needed in order to validate and speed the transition to coordinated, value-oriented service models where positive outcomes and the contributions of partnering organizations determine payment.

The Solution

The Fostering Hope Initiative seeks support for the Strong Families, Resilient Neighborhoods Pilot Demonstration Project in Marion County. **The project, funded by a proposed tax credit, is designed to integrate healthcare, supportive, affordable housing, early learning/education, and social services.** It will direct revenue from the tax credit via grants to stakeholders who have successfully developed strong coalitions able to provide the services and supports that meet priority community needs. The coalition will be accountable for meeting targeted metrics which demonstrate improved outcomes for children, families and neighborhoods. The approach will include:

- engaging in neighborhood mobilization to build the *Strengthening Families Protective Factors™* and implement strategies to meet needs and leverage resources of the local community.
- employing focused outreach and Certified Community Health Workers to provide a coordinated array of housing, health care, education, and social services and supports to families most in need.
- establishing an enhanced network of community-based nonprofits that partner with state and local government entities to align resources and ensure timely access to supportive, affordable housing, health care and a broad array of social services.
- securing tax credit funds to provide a sustainable source of revenue.
- piloting a value-oriented, outcomes-based payment system model.

The Impact

- Increased access to health care and social services, and improved health outcomes.
- Reduction in the numbers of children in foster care and founded child abuse dispositions.
- Increased resiliency of families and communities.
- Improved services to traditionally underserved populations as a result of the focused efforts on diversity, inclusion and equity and trauma-informed care practices.
- Every community member and agency contributes to promoting resilience and preventing/reducing adverse childhood experiences.
- Increased school success.
- Suggestions for policy, program and practice based on the project outcomes will enable expansion to other communities.

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We believe...

- Safe, stable, nurturing relationships are the key social determinants of optimum child development and adult resiliency.
- *Strengthening Families Protective Factors™* at home and in the neighborhood reduces toxic stress, builds adult capabilities, fosters hope, increases resiliency and reduces adverse childhood experiences. The *Protective Factors* are:
 - Positive Social Connections
 - Concrete Support in Times of Need
 - Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
 - Resilience
 - Social and Emotional Competence of Children
- Acute and/or chronic adversity in childhood leads to hyper-sensitivity to stress and potential lifelong impacts to health.
- Strengthening families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment will reduce entry into foster care, increase family stabilization and expedite reunification and permanency for children.
- Collaboration across sectors is vital for solving complex social problems and creating Collective Impact and social cohesion. The five conditions that support Collective Impact are:
 - Community Aspiration
 - High Leverage Activities
 - Backbone Support/Containers for Change
 - Strategic Learning
 - Inclusive Community Engagement
- A holistic community approach to healthcare that includes social determinants as well as behavioral and physical health results in better outcomes of wellbeing and success in life.
- A culturally and linguistically responsive approach that embeds diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels of the social ecology is essential to achieving optimum child and family outcomes.

