

# The Colorado Family Resource Center Model



## FOUNDATION



## Common Agenda



The Colorado Family Resource Center Model is a comprehensive approach to helping vulnerable families become more resilient and self-reliant across multiple areas of family stability, including poverty. The model uses as its foundation the Principles and Practices of Family Support (as defined by Family Support America) and the Family Resource Center statute enacted by the Colorado General Assembly in 1993. The Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) has also incorporated the Family Development approach developed by Cornell University, an intensive, strengths-based approach to working one-on-one with individual families to help them set and work toward transformative goals. The Model also integrates the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors as families set goals and move through programs.

## Continuous Communication



Through FRCA, family resource centers come together in quarterly meetings, regional cohorts, webinars, and other meetings for peer support and learning, sharing of promising practices, and training. FRCA also connects family resource centers with key thought leaders in family support service and other relative sectors, including education, human services, child welfare, housing and community development, and workforce development. These connections begin to break down silos among service providers and build awareness of and support for the comprehensive, coordinated services at the center of the Colorado Family Resource Center model.

## Mutually Reinforcing Activities



Family resource centers provide a safe, accessible place for families to connect with comprehensive, coordinated services, with programs at each center tailored to the culture, resources and needs of the community and focused on building on the strengths of each family and individual. Family resource center staff work in a coaching role with families to help them set and attain short-term and long-term goals toward self-reliance. Staff also serve as navigators to help families access resources and services at the center and in the local community. The Family Resource Center Association fosters strong collaboration among its 24 member family resource centers and works toward system-level supports for families through its active work on numerous statewide collaborations and partnerships across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

## Shared Measurement Systems



Family resource centers use the Colorado Family Support Assessment to measure progress in 16 domains of family stability: Employment, Financial, Childcare, Utility Assistance, Housing, Food, Adult Education, Children's Education, Parenting Skills, Family Relations, Health Care Access, Mental Health, Substance Use, Legal, Transportation, and Support Networks. FRCA's Efforts to Outcomes online data tracking system helps centers track outcomes to monitor program impact and effectiveness, standards of quality for Family Strengthening and Support, as well as their program activities and participant demographics. The Family Resource Center Association provides access to the online system, regular data management support, group and individual training, technical support, system customization and tools to help centers maintain and optimize use of their data.

## Backbone Support Organization



The Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) strengthens and expands the Colorado Family Resource Center model through program fidelity standards, program quality monitoring, outcome measurement, state- and national-level advocacy, resource development, and organizational capacity building for its 24 member family resource centers. FRCA secures funds to support implementation of effective programs at the local family resource center level as an intermediary, provides strategic technical assistance and training opportunities for FRCA members, and provides regular program quality monitoring for specific programs funded through FRCA, including health, parent and child development, and family development programs.