Introducing the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families
Robyn Cenizal, CFLE
Project Director

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National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

- Mission: Connecting healthy marriage education skills and safety-net services as an integrated approach to strengthening families.
  - Skills such as communication, conflict resolution, parenting and financial literacy.
Cost of Family Fragmentation to Tax Payers

- Family fragmentation costs U.S. taxpayers at least $112 billion each and every year, or more than $1 trillion each decade.
- These costs arise from increased taxpayer expenditures for antipoverty, criminal justice, and education programs, and through lower levels of taxes paid by individuals who, as adults, earn less because of reduced opportunities as a result of having been more likely to grow up in poverty.

The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States.
Cost to Employers

• There are substantial productivity declines for workers in failing relationships.

• These workers often have serious health concerns: increased stress and anxiety, increased rates of depression, and increased rates of substance abuse.

• These workers directly cost companies in higher healthcare expenditures and indirectly through societal effects of broken families.

Levels of Integration

1. Basic Engagement - Educational materials for colleagues and clients.

2. Partnerships - Information on identifying and developing referral partnerships.

3. Full integration - Training materials to assist in fully integrating healthy marriage education skills into social service delivery systems.
Virtual Resource Center

Our Purpose

The Resource Center supports safety-net service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

Training & Technical Assistance

The Resource Center offers training, services, and support to engage safety-net stakeholders in integrating healthy marriage education into their respective service delivery systems.

New and Noteworthy

Marriage across racial and ethnic lines continues to be on the rise in the United States. The share of new marriages...

Calendar

The Events calendar offers a listing of national, regional and community-wide events that might be of interest to you.
Success Stories

The State of Utah demonstrates that different levels of engagement work for different service delivery systems. For some systems, basic information-sharing with clients is an effective strategy; while in other systems, fully integrating healthy marriage education into service delivery is the best approach.

The Utah Department of Workforce Services partners with Utah State University’s StrongerMarriage.org program to distribute the Utah Healthy Marriage Book for free to any Utah resident that would like a copy. All they have to do is ask! Workforce Services also provides information related to parenting and financial literacy classes.

The Utah State Office of Education partners with Utah Family & Consumer Sciences Education to offer Adult Roles & Responsibilities at 95 high schools throughout the state of Utah. This course (.5 credit) prepares students to understand the nature, function, and significance of human relationships involving individuals and families. Topics include: family living, parenting, household and money management, decision-making skills, communication skills, self-awareness, crisis management, and the individual's roles and responsibilities within the family and community. On average 9,339 students were enrolled in these classes during the 2010-2011 school year.

Does your agency have a success story to tell?

Email us the details: info@healthymarriageandfamilies.org

I would love to tell your story!
Training and Technical Assistance

National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families Training and Technical Assistance provides interested State, Tribal, Safety-net Stakeholders and organizations with customized training (in-person and on-line), best practices, research, resource information, and opportunities to share and learn experienced-based strategies for integrating Healthy Marriage/Healthy Relationship skills into their current service delivery systems.

The Training and Technical Assistance Goals are to:

- Foster collaboration within and across State, Tribal, and Safety-net Stakeholder systems in an effort to provide more coordinated and holistic services to children and families
- Equip administrators and direct service providers with new tools, training, and skills, that will help them to best meet the needs of clients who seek support with their marriages/relationships
- Provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities for State, Tribal, Safety-net Stakeholders, and organizations to share and learn cost-effective strategies that have proven effective at strengthening families and moving clients from welfare to self-sufficiency.
- Promote and encourage effective healthy marriage/healthy relationship service integration strategies

Who Can Request and Participate in Training and Technical Assistance

Administrators and direct service providers from State, Tribal and local government Safety-net Stakeholders and organizations.

Training and Technical Assistance Supports and Services

Assistance is available to assist with whatever level of engagement desired, from simply wanting brochures related to the importance of healthy marriage to distribute in a waiting room through strategies for complete program integration.

Understanding that the needs of State, Tribal, Safety-net Stakeholders, and organizations vary, Training and Technical Assistance will be provided through a variety of approaches.

- Webinars – Expert-led trainings that connect, inform, and educate administrators and group leaders to develop relationship service integration strategies within their systems. These trainings occur over one or two hours remotely.
- Regional Site Exchanges – Regional technical assistance events that facilitate face-to-face exchange of ideas between stakeholders and direct service professionals from State, Tribal, Safety-net Stakeholders, and organizations. Site visits will host visiting stakeholders who are interested in learning promising strategies from other jurisdictions. These site visits will also be opportunities for stakeholders to network and brainstorm ideas. Professional CEUs are awarded upon completion of the site exchanges.
- Regional and On-line Training Institutes – These training institutes target state administrators and direct service providers from TANF, Child Support, Child Welfare, and Workforce Development agencies. By attending training sessions or conferences, participants can learn about new directions, control cost, and enhance program delivery. These institutes can be attended face-to-face or on-line.
- Individual Technical Assistance - We are also available to answer questions and provide ongoing consultation regarding specific efforts to integrate healthy marriage and relationship education into your service delivery systems.

How to Request Training and Technical Assistance:

Training and Technical Assistance requests are jointly reviewed by Resource Center leadership and our Federal partners – The Office of Family Assistance (OFA), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Training and Technical Assistance request form.
Children and Youth Services

Researchers have found many benefits for children and youth who are raised by parents who are committed to each other in a healthy relationship and especially those in healthy marriages. Children raised in healthy marriages are more likely to grow into strong, healthy, and successful adults. Connecting parents to healthy marriage and relationship education skills such as communication, conflict resolution, parenting and financial literacy have been shown to increase marital stability, improve parenting skills, and improve family functioning. They can also increase parental confidence and encourage parents to take a more active role in their child's education.

Educators, policymakers, and families increasingly agree: schools cannot do it alone. Children need multiple opportunities to learn and grow—at home, in school, and in the community.

Complementary Learning

Complementary Learning is a comprehensive strategy for addressing all of these needs and ensuring success for all children and youth. Complementary learning is the idea that a systemic approach—which intentionally integrates both school and nonschool supports—can better ensure that all children have the skills they need to succeed. As the chart indicates, families need to be at the table as equal stakeholders in their child's education.

Harvard's Family Research Project

Harvard's Family Research Project offers a wealth of information, research and resources to assist educators and other child serving organizations in their mission to encourage and support children and their families from the cradle to college.

Education (K-12)

Head Start/Early Learning
### Calendar

#### April 2012

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**2012 International Conference on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Connecting Federal Pr**

**Balancing Work and F:**

**18th Annual National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect** Monday, April 16, 2012 - 12:00 to Friday, April 20, 2012 - 12:00
National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

Robyn Cenizal, Project Director

www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org

Email:
info@healthymarriageandfamilies.org

Phone:
866-916-4672