

# strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

## idaho

strengthening families national network partner

### LEAD AGENCY

Idaho Children's Trust Fund  
P.O. Box 2015  
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### ASPECTS OF IDAHO'S APPROACH

Participate in the National Association of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds' Early Childhood Initiative

Work with 22 pilot child care sites throughout the state to implement Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education

Develop a 18-hour curriculum around the Protective Factors and Program Strategies and deliver it to pilot child care sites

Embed Strengthening Families in the developing Quality Rating System through Idaho STARTS, a program to improve the quality of child care in the state

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Complete revisions to Idaho's original Strengthening Families curriculum for child care workers and recruit trainers to work with regional trainers

Work further towards embedding Strengthening Families into the Quality Rating System by securing official sanction through legislation of departmental processes

Expand Strengthening Families to 30 early care and education centers

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES NATIONAL NETWORK

With funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the SFNN, brings together states, territories, and tribes implementing Strengthening Families with national organizations embedding the approach into their work.

**Partners** in the SFNN have deep, broad-based Strengthening Families initiatives across multiple systems in the state, and have a leadership role in the network. 9 states are partners in the SFNN.

**Affiliates** in the SFNN are strongly committed to Strengthening Families and are working towards implementation of approach at the state level. 14 states are affiliates in the SFNN.

For more about Strengthening Families visit [www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net)

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## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Having observed remarkable changes in child care centers adopting a more family-centered approach, Idaho's Strengthening Families team will be working to develop parent engagement in the coming year. The first step of this process will be to hire an AmeriCorps volunteer to focus efforts around parent engagement.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Strengthening Families team in Idaho has developed an original curriculum based on the five Protective Factors and seven Program Strategies for early care and education providers. The 18-hour training has been delivered to the 22 pilot child care centers, and regional trainers across the state will be instructed in delivering the curriculum to other early care and education providers across the state.

Strengthening Families is thoroughly integrated into Idaho STARS, the state's registry system, and the Quality Rating System (QRS) for child care programs. Points for professional development are earned through participating in the Strengthening Families training.

In addition to the integration of Strengthening Families into Idaho STARS and the QRS, the training center at the University of Idaho is exploring ways to embed the approach into other early childhood curricula.

At least 22 early care and education centers in Washington were using the Strengthening Families Self Assessment in 2007.

In 2008, approximately 30 centers serving 2,000 children, will complete the Strengthening Families Self Assessment.

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Idaho's Strengthening Families team is working with the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3) to explore working across systems to build Protective Factors in families. EC3 has heard presentations on the Protective Factors, and will be learning about the Adverse Childhood Experiences study in the coming year. Efforts are also underway to engage the Infant and Toddler program and the Head Start Collaborative.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Idaho Children's Trust Fund/Prevent Child Abuse Idaho is the lead agency for child abuse and neglect prevention in Idaho and is a full partner in the state's Strengthening Families initiative, along with the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC). The Trust Fund recently awarded the AEYC a three-year, \$40,000 grant to extend the Strengthening Families work in child abuse and neglect prevention to work with underserved groups, including Latino communities and people with disabilities.

Funding, staff time, and in-kind resources for Strengthening Families Idaho have been provided by:

- National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
- Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
- Idaho Children's Trust Fund

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## CHILD WELFARE

Idaho's Strengthening Families team has worked with the state Department of Health and Welfare to make Strengthening Families and prevention of child abuse a more integral part of child protection and the case management system of the Department. The Chief of Social Work in each region has begun to work with the network of child care providers to increase reciprocal referrals between the Department and community-based prevention groups.

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