

# Connecticut: State Initiative Profile



## Overview

The Connecticut Children's Trust Fund assists Connecticut parents in developing Nurturing Children, Strengthening Families and Supporting Communities. The Trust Fund uses the three levels of change to infuse the "Strengthening Families" approach through parent partnerships, professional development and policies and system change efforts.

## Building Strengthening Families Practice on the Ground

- Facilitate *Strengthening Families* training to all 40 Nurturing Families Network home visiting programs statewide.
- Provide Strengthening Families Training to community early care and education providers through the 77 Help Me Grow Early Childhood Networking Breakfasts statewide.
- Launched the "Take 5 for Positive Parenting" Campaign : <http://www.take5parenting.com/>

## Key Aspects of the State's work

### Policy / Systems Change

- Provide statewide training to program staff, early childhood professionals, physicians and the community on Strengthening Families 101, Self Assessment training and technical assistance to participants.

Strengthening Families is a research-based, cost-effective strategy to increase family stability, enhance child development and reduce child abuse and neglect. It builds five protective factors:

Parental resilience

Social connections

Knowledge of parenting and child development

Concrete support in times of need

Social and emotional competence of children

Through the Strengthening Families Initiative, more than thirty states are shifting policy, funding and training to help programs working with children and families build protective factors with families. Many states are also using the Strengthening Families approach to integrate state prevention strategies, strengthen families in the child welfare system and engage parents and communities in building protective factors. For more information, visit [www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net)

Nationally, Strengthening Families is coordinated by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and supported by a number of national partner organizations including:

The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds

The BUILD Initiative

United Way Worldwide

Zero to Three

The FRIENDS National Resource Center

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## Parent Partnerships

- Incorporated the “Strengthening Families” philosophy into the Help Me Grow System of Care: (Child Development Info Line) The state’s early childhood telephone information and referral service).
- Facilitate two “Community Café’s in the City of Hartford to a Pre-K through 12 grade school and two Early Childhood programs.

## Professional Development

- Currently provide training on the Ages and Stages developmental screening tool and Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention trainings statewide to pediatricians, Early Head Starts, CT Department of Social Services, Department of Children & Families, Family Resource Centers and other child care providers.
- The Connecticut Children’s Trust Fund, the National Coordinator for the Family Development Credential Training provides on going 80 hour Family Development training and credential for family service workers & Family Development Leadership course for manager’s policy makers and directors statewide.

## Infrastructure and Sustainability

- The Connecticut Children’s Trust Fund Staff have been trained on Strengthening Families and a Primary Prevention Services Coordinator serves as lead staff for this initiative.
- Provides ongoing broad based training for all program staff on prevention strategies and approaches, family support and parent education, help form networks among service providers and provide ongoing site development for continues quality improvement.

## Evaluating Strengthening Families

- Data Management and Program Evaluation: Maintain several data bases and conducts evaluation and research for each of the Trust Fund’s major state and federally funded programs.



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## 2011 QUICK FACTS

**Note: DO NOT WRITE  
IN THIS TEXT BOX.**

CSSP will fill this section with your 2011 data. The 2011 State Data Report form and instructions are forthcoming shortly.

**State Coordinator:**

Name and Contact Information

**SF Investment:** (Total, state, private, in-kind)

**Professional Development:**

# of individuals trained:  
# person hours:

**SF Implementation:**

Protective Factors used in  
ECCS Planning: Yes/No

Protective Factors used in  
CBCAP RFP Process: Yes/No

Protective Factors integrated  
into state QRIS: Yes/No

CCR&R Network in state  
supporting program  
implementation in EC sector:  
Yes/No

SF included in State Home  
Visiting Plan: Yes/No

SF is being implemented into  
child welfare system: Yes/No

## Evolving Work

The state of Connecticut was awarded \$27 million over three years in Affordable Care Act funds to improve the health and development of at-risk pregnant women, parents, caregivers and children from birth-to-eight years of age. The funds will expand the capacity of the Nurturing Families Network Home visiting program.

## Strengthening Families National Network State Contacts (not for public distribution)

Please update the designated contacts for your state's participation in the Strengthening Families National Network (SFNN). This information will NOT be included in your state profile. It is for internal use only to ensure timely and accurate communication between CSSP, SFNN national partners, and participating states.

Name	Agency/Role (e.g., Children's Trust Fund, Office of Early Childhood, etc.)	e-mail	Phone
Karen Foley-Schain	Children's Trust Fund	<a href="mailto:karen.foley-schain@ct.gov">karen.foley-schain@ct.gov</a>	
Haley Scott	SF coordinator	<a href="mailto:HALEY.SCOTT@ct.gov">HALEY.SCOTT@ct.gov</a>	