

NATIONAL ALLIANCE

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## CHILDREN'S TRUST & PREVENTION FUNDS

www.ctfalliance.org

### Outline of the Curriculum

#### Introduction/Strengthening Families 101

- ✘ Background information on the Strengthening Families approach
- ✘ Introduction of the Protective Factors Framework
- ✘ Strength-based work with families
- ✘ Introduction of the self-assessment
- ✘ Option to continue to full curriculum

#### Five Protective Factors Courses

Each course includes:

- ✘ Purpose and learning objectives for the course
- ✘ Definition and explanation of the protective factor
- ✘ Definition and explanation of program strategy (or strategies)
- ✘ Individualized Action Plan (IAP) work

Protective Factor	Program Strategy(ies) Highlighted
Social connections	✘ Facilitate friendships and mutual support
Parental resilience	✘ Value and support parents ✘ Respond to family crises
Knowledge of parenting and child development	✘ Strengthen parenting
Concrete support in times of need	✘ Link families to services and opportunities ✘ Observe and respond to early warning signs of abuse and neglect
Social and emotional competence	✘ Facilitate children's social-emotional development

#### Individualized Action Plan (IAP) and Portfolio Review and Reflection

- ✘ Recap of curriculum, using the logic model as visual summary
- ✘ Review user portfolio and IAP
- ✘ Add reflections and update IAP to reflect progress made while completing the curriculum
- ✘ Print the complete portfolio and IAP in a format suitable to submit for credit

## Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work – A Resource for Action

The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds (Alliance) is pleased to make available an online training to support implementation of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework in multiple settings. This important resource was developed through the generous support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and builds on earlier work of the Alliance that was developed by the Arkansas Children's Trust Fund and ZERO TO THREE. The Center for the Study of Social Policy has been a critical partner in developing this work. This curriculum includes new materials on partnering with parents and addresses promising strategies to strengthen families for practitioners in multiple settings. The curriculum is posted on the Alliance website (<http://learner.ctfalliance.org>) and is available free of charge.

### Overview

The curriculum consists of seven courses: the introductory course, a course focused on each protective factor (each exploring one or two program strategies) and a final "review and reflection" course that helps the user move from knowledge to action. The introductory course can serve as a brief, stand-alone "Strengthening Families 101" training, and may also serve as the introduction and overview for those who will complete the entire curriculum. The curriculum is designed to serve a broad audience of people who work with children and families, including parents, practitioners and supervisors. At several points,

users will have the option to select material that relates to their specific area of work (early care and education, child welfare or family support).

Each course includes a number of quizzes, activities and reflective questions. With a mix of written text, video and audio clips and opportunities to interact with the material, the courses are designed to keep the learner engaged. An online forum on the course site will allow learners to interact with each other, ask questions about what they are learning and respond to others' questions.

Users will be able to print a portfolio that includes their responses to all questions and their Individualized Action Plan detailing changes they intend to make in their work with children and families as a result of what they learned.

Users who are seeking credit for the training will submit their portfolio and Individualized Action Plan to a designated organization or instructor in their state. States are encouraged to establish a process for providing credit (whether in the form of CEUs or other continuing education credit) for early care and education, child welfare, family support and other professionals who work with children and families.

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**strengthening families**<sup>™</sup>  
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK