

# strengthening families

## G E O R G I A



A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

## WHAT IS STRENGTHENING FAMILIES GEORGIA?

Strengthening Families Georgia (SFG) represents a multi-disciplinary partnership of nearly 50 national, state and local, and public and private organizations **dedicated to embedding five research-based Protective Factors into services and supports for children and their families.** SFG is funded by the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DHS-DFCS), through the Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Program. The Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC), state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), administers SFG and chairs the SFG Leadership Team and Partnership.

## THE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES GEORGIA VISION

All families with children birth through age five in Georgia have the resources and support necessary for a meaningful and successful life.

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES GEORGIA MISSION

To utilize the Strengthening Families assets-based framework of Protective Factors in all systems, programs, services and activities supporting families with young children as the approach to achieving the vision.

Five Protective Factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families Approach. Research studies support that when these Protective Factors are well established in a family the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. Research also shows that these five Protective Factors build family strengths and a family environment that promotes optimal child and youth development.

1. Parental Resilience  
**Parents Can Bounce Back**
2. Social Connections  
**Parents Have Friends**
3. Knowledge of Child Development  
**Parents Know How Children Grow and Learn**
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need  
**Parents Know Where to Turn for Help**
5. Social and Emotional Competence of Children  
**Children Learn to Talk About and Handle Feelings**

## BACKGROUND

In 2001, with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) began studying the role that early child care and education programs nationwide can play in strengthening families and preventing abuse and neglect. The Strengthening Families conceptual framework and approach to preventing child abuse and neglect involves building evidence-based Protective Factors around young children by working differently with their families. The Strengthening Families approach follows a logic model to impact all child- and family-serving organizations and systems by building protective factors, using data driven decision-making, marshaling leadership and making policy and systems changes on multiple levels.

In 2006 The Governor's Office for Children and Families (formerly the Georgia Children's Trust Fund Commission) convened a group from the early childhood education and child abuse prevention sectors to develop a two-year Strengthening Families plan to utilize frontline early childhood caregivers as a means to prevent child abuse and neglect. Since 2014 SFG has been supported in part by the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DHS-DFCS). With continued funding and the expertise of a multi-disciplinary Leadership Team and Partnership, Strengthening Families Georgia has seen steady growth and expansion beyond early childhood, now including cross-disciplinary efforts and parent partnerships to produce changes in practices and policies.

## strengthening families G E O R G I A



### LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Black Child Development Institute
- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Georgia Association on Young Children
- Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Georgia Department of Education, Office of School Improvement
- Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Family Connection Partnership
- Georgia Parent Teacher Association
- Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
- Parent and Family Advocates, Leaders and Representatives
- Parent to Parent of Georgia
- Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
- Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers
- Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- United Way of Greater Atlanta
- Voices for Georgia's Children

### KEY ASPECTS OF GEORGIA'S WORK

- Embedding Strengthening Families in Early Care and Education Systems
- Creating Family Strengthening Child Welfare Practices
- Building Parent and Community Partnerships
- Enriching Professional Development

For more information on Strengthening Families Georgia and CSSP visit:  
[www.strengtheningfamiliesga.net](http://www.strengtheningfamiliesga.net)  
[www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net).

To be added to the SFG Partnership charged with implementing the SFG Operational Plan or to receive updates and information, contact Jeanette B. Meyer, statewide SFG Coordinator at [strengtheningfamiliesga@gmail.com](mailto:strengtheningfamiliesga@gmail.com).



### Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

"This project was supported in part by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DHS-DFCS) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590). Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590)."