

Protective Factors Approaches to Prevention

Protective factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, and the broader society that reduce the risk of child maltreatment and support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. These strengths, such as social connections, parenting knowledge and skills, concrete support, and economic stability, help buffer families from stress and adversity and promote healthy development throughout life.

Protective factors support children's ability to thrive at home, in school, and in their communities. They also help parents and caregivers access resources, build supportive relationships, and develop coping strategies that promote effective parenting, even during challenging times.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Why a protective factors approach is important

Examples of protective factors approaches

Putting protective factors into practice

Conclusion

Additional resources

References

This issue brief provides an overview of protective factors approaches to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It is intended to support child welfare professionals, administrators, service providers, policymakers, and other partners (e.g., community-based organizations and other child- and family-serving agencies) in understanding how strengthening protective factors can reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment.

WHY A PROTECTIVE FACTORS APPROACH IS IMPORTANT

In the past, child maltreatment prevention and intervention strategies focused on eliminating risk factors—conditions, events, or circumstances that increase a family's chances for poor outcomes, including child abuse and neglect. This emphasis on family risks (e.g., maternal depression, family violence, history of maltreatment) often left families feeling stigmatized or unfairly judged.

A **protective factors** approach to preventing child maltreatment focuses on positive ways to engage families by emphasizing their strengths, highlighting what parents and caregivers are doing well, and identifying areas where families have room to grow with support. It also supports children and families in building resilience, skills, knowledge, and relationships that reduce the impact of risk and promote positive outcomes in the short and long term. According to the American Psychological Association (n.d.), **resilience** is the ability to cope with adversity (including trauma, tragedy, threats, and significant stress) in a positive way by adapting to change and managing stress. It involves behaviors, thoughts, and actions that can be learned over time and nurtured through positive relationships with parents, caregivers, and other adults. Resilience in children and adults who have **adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)** can help them thrive despite these experiences.

It's important to note that a family's protective factors do not exist in isolation and are not solely reflective of individual or family characteristics. Protective factors can be deeply influenced by the environments and community conditions in which families live as well as how child- and family-serving systems respond to and support families. For this reason, it's vital that child welfare agencies make intentional efforts to [collaborate with other supportive systems](#) (such as early childhood, behavioral health, faith-based organizations, and community-based service providers) to deliver coordinated, prevention-focused services before families reach a crisis point that leads to child welfare involvement. In this way, child welfare agencies and community-based partners can help create environments and conditions that strengthen protective factors, support family well-being, and reduce the likelihood of child welfare involvement.



At the Federal level, the [Family First Prevention Services Act](#) (FFPSA) includes provisions that support protective factors approaches by helping child welfare systems focus on prevention and family strengthening efforts. FFPSA allows Federal funding for evidence-based mental health, substance use, and in-home prevention and parenting services for families who are at risk of child welfare involvement. It also encourages child welfare agencies to work with community partners and related systems to provide support to families before they reach a crisis. These provisions reinforce the understanding that protective factors are strengthened not only at the individual and family levels but also through coordinated community supports, accessible services, and prevention-focused systems.

A Home for Every Child

In 2025, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced a new national initiative—[A Home for Every Child](#)—that seeks to strengthen families, prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement, and help connect every child who does enter foster care to a safe and stable living arrangement ready to support him or her. The initiative includes a goal of achieving a foster home-to-child ratio greater than 1:1 in every jurisdiction, increasing the number of available homes (numerator) while reducing unnecessary entries into foster care through prevention-focused strategies (denominator). Together, these efforts aim to strengthen family-based care and improve outcomes for children and families.

This approach leans into the idea that prevention is foundational to child safety, well-being, and permanency. By bolstering community-based prevention interventions, the initiative seeks to lower the risk of maltreatment and support long-term stability for children by reducing barriers to services and strengthening families before crises occur.

Learn more by reading [ACF's press release announcing the initiative](#).

EXAMPLES OF PROTECTIVE FACTORS APPROACHES

This section offers an overview of some protective factors approaches, including the [Social-Ecological Model](#), the [Strengthening Families](#) and [Youth Thrive](#) approaches, and the [Essentials for Childhood](#) and [Healthy Outcomes From Positive Experiences](#) (HOPE) frameworks. Each approach is evidence- or data-based, designed to influence policy, and involves practitioners, social or community connections, youth leaders, and parents. These examples are driven by unique strategies developed to help systems foster conditions and environments that can help families build protective factors, reduce risk factors, and prevent child maltreatment. For example, the Strengthening Families approach emphasizes ways to support parents, Youth Thrive concentrates

primarily on strengthening adolescents and young adults, Essentials for Childhood promotes relationships and environments to help create neighborhoods and communities where children can flourish, and the HOPE framework stresses the importance of a child's positive life experiences in helping to reduce the effects of ACEs.

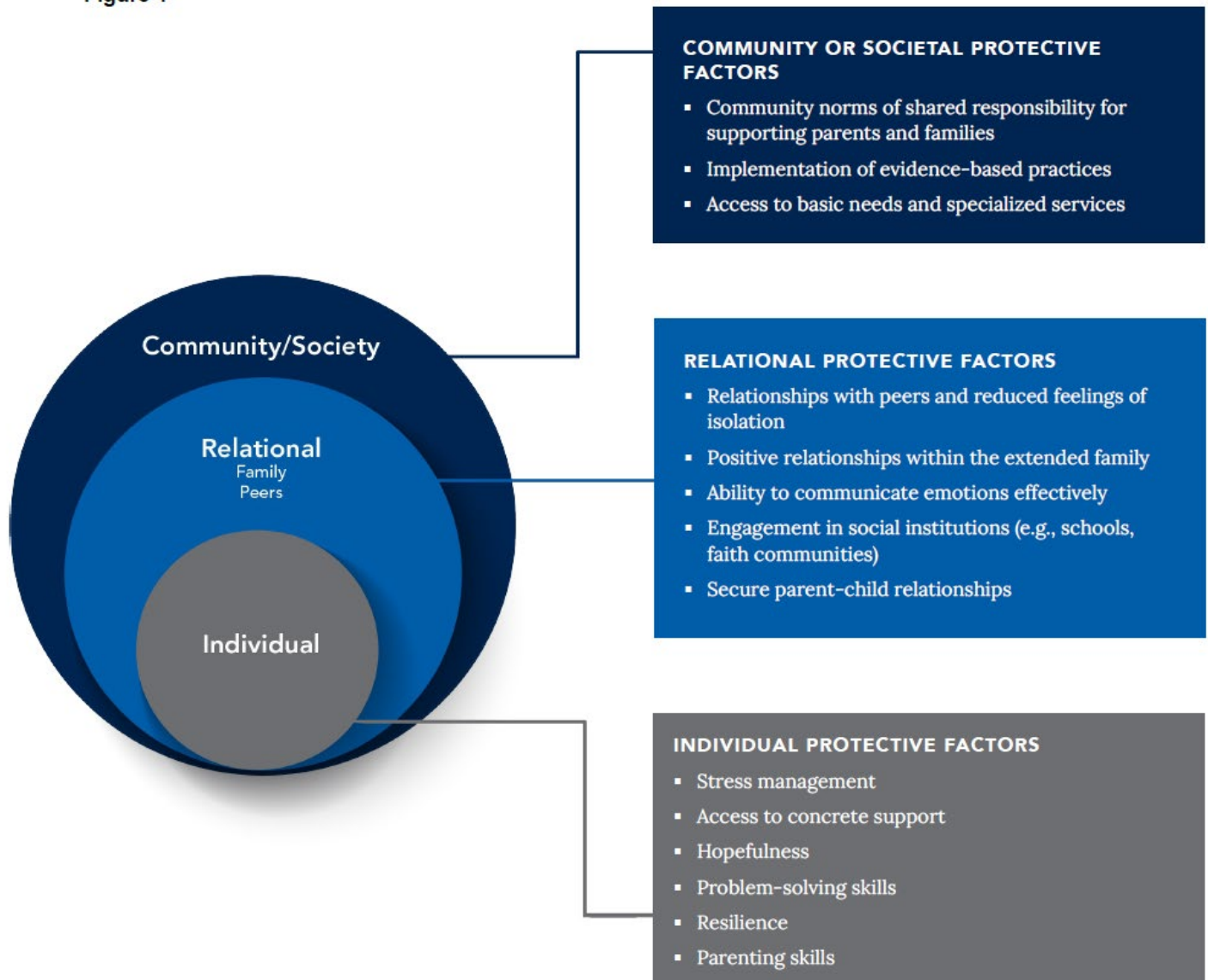
THE SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL MODEL

Social-ecological theory examines how protective factors operate across different social levels. It recognizes that because people exist within complex social structures, protective factors are shaped not only by individual characteristics but also by families, other important relationships, communities, and societal factors, such as the availability of supports at the community and system levels.

Figure 1 demonstrates the interrelations among common protective factors and their respective levels of the social ecology. The overlapping rings of the graphic illustrate how protective factors at one level influence factors at other levels. Approaches for strengthening protective factors should emphasize efforts across the spectrum of this social ecology. That means not only focusing on building individual resilience but also on developing supportive relationships, communities with a variety of accessible supports and services, and policies and systems that work to develop and promote these supports. This multilevel perspective is more likely to support long-term prevention efforts (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2025a).

Visit the [About Violence Prevention webpage](#) to learn more about the social-ecological model.

Figure 1



Kinship Care as a Protective Factors Approach

[Kinship care](#) is an arrangement where children live with relatives or fictive kin (chosen family not related by blood) when their parents cannot safely provide care. This can reinforce relational and community-level protective factors and help maintain family connections, including with siblings, fictive kin, mothers and maternal relatives, and fathers and paternal relatives (who are important but often overlooked resources for kinship care). It can also offer greater stability and reduce trauma associated with separation from familiar caregivers and environments.

A key strategy of A Home for Every Child is prioritizing kinship care, which includes reducing barriers to accessing services, resources, and ongoing supports for kin caregivers and kinship foster parents. The Children's Bureau's [Kinship Care webpage](#) has information about Federal efforts to strengthen kinship care, including the following:

- Funding for kinship navigator programs
- Separate licensing standards for kinship foster family homes and nonrelative foster family homes
- Requirements that agencies provide kinship foster family homes with equal foster care maintenance payments as nonrelative foster family homes

Explore these Information Gateway resources for more:

- [Identifying and Engaging Fathers](#)
- [Kinship Care](#)
- [Working With Kin Caregivers](#)

THE HOPE FRAMEWORK

The HOPE framework focuses on the power of [positive childhood experiences](#) (PCEs) to promote child well-being and mitigate the effects of ACEs. The framework includes protective and promotive factors, along with other positive factors, which decrease the effects of childhood adversity and increase opportunities for children to develop resilience and recovery skills. HOPE identifies four key types of PCEs that can help children thrive (HOPE, 2022):

1. **Relationships:** Secure attachments to parents or caregivers who are affectionate and responsive as well as positive relationships with peers
2. **Environment:** Safe and stable places to live, grow, play, and learn that offer adequate housing and nutrition, quality learning opportunities, and activities that benefit children's health and development

3. **Engagement:** Involvement in social institutions and environments (e.g., schools, recreational facilities, faith communities) where children feel loved, connected, valued, secure, and confident
4. **Emotional growth:** Opportunities to express feelings in appropriate ways, understand others' emotional states, and manage challenging experiences effectively

A study analyzing adult survey data from four States found that people who reported more PCEs, such as feeling safe, supported, and connected, tended to have better mental and physical health outcomes, less risky behaviors, and stronger educational and economic outcomes in adulthood (Sege et al., 2025). The results also indicated that PCEs can help reduce the long-term harm associated with ACEs.

In prevention work, HOPE can be incorporated across systems, partners, and organizational levels to promote PCEs for children and families, including one-on-one services, organizational structures and policies, and community collaboratives (Gallant, 2024). For more information about the HOPE framework, including new and promising evidence that shows the importance of PCEs for healthy child development despite adversity, read ["Research on Positive Childhood Experiences Continues to Grow"](#) in HOPE's blog section. Explore the [HOPE Framework in Action webpage](#) to find case studies, stories, and resources from communities, professionals, and organizations that are implementing the HOPE framework.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND YOUTH THRIVE

The Strengthening Families and Youth Thrive frameworks are evidence-informed approaches that build on existing research to strengthen protective and promotive factors¹ that support positive outcomes for children, youth, and families. Since multiple programs and systems use both frameworks, they also seek to develop methods and tools that support different applications and adaptive implementations across different settings and contexts.

In 2024, both frameworks [expanded the perspectives and research evidence](#) that informed their original models. These updated perspectives amplified and clarified the protective factors, more intentionally incorporating considerations of community- and system-level elements that can affect them. While the frameworks continue to focus on the five core protective factors, their definitions now emphasize that protective factors reflect not only individual capacities but also relational, community, and societal conditions that can help children, youth, and families thrive. The frameworks share the following factors (Harper Browne, 2024, p.5):

- **Parental and youth resilience:** Managing stress and functioning well—facilitated by individual, relational, community, or societal factors—when faced with stressors, adversity, or trauma
- **Social connections:** Having healthy, meaningful, trusting, and sustained relationships with people, institutions, communities, or a higher power that promote a sense of connectedness and mattering

¹ The term "promotive factors" tends to be used more in youth development than in child welfare. Promotive factors make positive outcomes more likely across the board, regardless of risk. Protective factors make positive outcomes more likely in the face of risk. The term "protective factors" tends to be used as shorthand or an umbrella term to mean both of those concepts.

- **Concrete support:** Identifying, accessing, advocating for, and receiving high-quality support, including the basic necessities everyone deserves and specialized services to address specific needs

The frameworks differ primarily in how they address the developmental needs of children across the lifespan. **Strengthening Families**, which focuses on parents and younger children, includes the following factors (Harper Browne, 2024, p.5):

- **Knowledge of parenting and child development:** Learning about prenatal, infant, and child development and using developmentally and contextually appropriate parenting practices
- **Social and emotional competence of children:** Providing environments and experiences—grounded in early relational health—that build positive social skills; enable children to regulate thoughts, emotions, and behaviors; and promote effective communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills

Youth Thrive focuses on older children, youth, and young adults (ages 9 through 26), particularly youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Its framework includes the following factors (Harper Browne, 2024, p.5):

- **Knowledge of adolescent development:** Learning about adolescent development and using this knowledge to support the development of competencies needed for adulthood
- **Cognitive and social-emotional competence:** Acquiring skills that enable youth to form healthy relationships; regulate thoughts, emotions, and behaviors; engage in effective communication and problem-solving; and gain self-awareness and a sense of personal identity

Several States have [active Strengthening Families efforts](#). States use this approach for child abuse and neglect prevention programming as well as in [other sectors](#), including child welfare services, family support, early care and education programs, and home visiting.

Child welfare and juvenile justice agencies can use the Youth Thrive framework to examine and revise policies, practices, and staff training to align more closely with research findings and be responsive to the dynamic changes that older children, youth, and young adults experience.

To find information about tools, resources, training, and more related to the Youth Thrive framework, visit [Youth Thrive: Opportunities Into Action](#). The [Youth Thrive Survey](#) (scroll down to Survey Instrument) is a valid, web-based self-assessment instrument that measures the presence, strength, and growth of protective and promotive factors in youth. The survey was designed with input from youth and young adults and takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

Parent Cafés

Be Strong Families, a national organization focused on prevention, provides training, technical assistance, and implementation support for organizations hosting Parent Cafés based on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework. More than a decade of [independent evaluation and research](#), conducted between 2012 and 2024 across several communities, has shown the effectiveness of Parent Cafés in helping strengthen families. Examples of positive outcomes reported for participants include the following (Be Strong Families, n.d.):

- 92 percent learned a new way to handle stress or challenges in their life
- 92 percent learned something to help deal positively with a challenge with their child
- 83 percent made lasting connections with other parents
- 97 percent learned how to use the protective factors to keep their families strong

The Be Strong Families Parent Café Program was recently added to the [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare](#) as a research-informed, replicable program with a clear theory of change and high relevance to child welfare prevention.

To learn more about Parent Cafés, including parent engagement benefits, funding sources, participant experiences, information sessions, and training, visit the Be Strong Families [Cafés Overview webpage](#).

ESSENTIALS FOR CHILDHOOD

The CDC defines three critical qualities of relationships and environments that can reduce the occurrence and negative effects of child maltreatment and other ACEs (CDC, 2024a):

5. **Safety:** The extent to which a child is free from fear and secure from physical or psychological harm within his or her social and physical environment
6. **Stability:** The degree of predictability and consistency in a child's social, emotional, and physical environment
7. **Nurturing:** The extent to which children's physical, emotional, and developmental needs are sensitively and consistently met

The Essentials for Childhood framework focuses on four goals that are critical for creating the context for safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments (CDC, 2025b):

- **Goal 1:** Raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and prevent child abuse and neglect
- **Goal 2:** Use data to inform actions
- **Goal 3:** Create the context for healthy children and families by changing norms and programs
- **Goal 4:** Create the context for healthy children and families through policies

While each individual goal is important, meeting the four goals together is more likely to build a comprehensive foundation of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for children. The CDC has provided funding to help [several State health departments](#) implement the Essentials for Childhood goals, which focus on preventing ACEs and promoting positive childhood experiences (CDC, 2024b).

To learn more about this framework and access related resources, such as guides, tools, and trainings, visit the [Essentials for Childhood Framework webpage](#).

What Are Caregiver Protective Capacities?

Caregiver protective capacities complement protective factors. Both are used to assess families, but their focus differs slightly. Protective factors focus on preventing maltreatment and are used to assess and strengthen families. Caregiver protective capacities are more directly tied to child safety and used in safety assessment, safety planning, and ongoing casework (National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare [NCSACW], 2022). Protective capacities refer to the behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that help caregivers recognize and respond to safety threats and protect their children (NCSACW, 2022).

To learn more about caregiver protective capacities and approaches to assessing and developing them, visit the Action for Child Protection [Practice Model webpage](#).

PUTTING PROTECTIVE FACTORS INTO PRACTICE

Many jurisdictions across the United States are already applying protective factors approaches. The following examples illustrate a variety of ways to incorporate protective factors approaches to support children, families, and communities.

MICHIGAN

Children Trust Michigan (CTM) partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and local organizations across the State on prevention efforts grounded in the Strengthening Families and HOPE frameworks. One strategy supported by both frameworks is [CTM's Statewide Family Resource Center \(FRC\) Network](#). The community-based FRCs help families access concrete supports, build parenting and other skills, connect to other families and social supports, and reduce everyday stressors that can place children at risk. Families can access services such as parenting education, help understanding public benefits, assistance with basic needs (e.g., food pantries), and referrals to health, mental health, housing, and other social services. The centers are designed to meet families where they are by providing a safe and nonjudgmental environment that reflects the local community's needs. The Statewide FRC Network currently comprises 11 FRCs, with plans to expand across the State (Children Trust Michigan, 2025). Visit the CTM website to learn more about its [approach to applying protective factors frameworks](#) and how Michigan's FRCs are helping communities create the conditions for families to build their protective factors and prevent child maltreatment.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Resilient Communities initiative is a community-led prevention strategy helping counties and communities across South Dakota reinforce local partnerships to prevent child maltreatment and strengthen families. The initiative is led by the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM), which was established by the State's legislature to help align local, Tribal, State, and Federal child protection efforts. Resilient Communities supports local coalitions in coordinating their prevention efforts across sectors to better address conditions associated with child maltreatment and promote positive outcomes for children and families. Grounded in the Essentials for Childhood framework, the initiative aims to do the following (CPCM, n.d.):

- Help communities increase their cross-sector capacity to know, prevent, respond to, and sustain evidence-based strategies to reduce ACEs, increase PCEs, and build more resilient, self-healing communities
- Increase awareness and facilitate education on ACEs and resiliency
- Increase awareness of the signs and prevalence of child maltreatment and how to work in cross-sector and multidisciplinary teams to prevent and respond to it
- Connect South Dakota communities with no- or low-cost evidence-based resources and trainings available in the State that can reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for children

- Move from individual responsibility to collaborative, community solutions
- Build a coalition of Resilient Communities in South Dakota that can support and learn from one another

Five South Dakota communities and counties are currently participating in Resilient Communities. Each locality's initiative is facilitated by a local team and supported by a CPCM navigator, who helps community partners from different sectors come together to assess community strengths, identify gaps, and implement prevention plans and strategies using a [phased process](#). Visit CPCM's [Resilient Communities webpage](#) to learn more about the program's approach and each local initiative.

WASHINGTON

The [Washington State Department of Health's Essentials for Childhood](#) (EfC) is a statewide collaborative initiative supported through CDC funding and rooted in the Essentials for Childhood framework. EfC works to increase family resilience and promote protective factors by fostering cross-system collaboration, strengthening local service systems, building community capacity, and supporting policy and system changes that address the root causes of child maltreatment. Current EfC projects aimed at elevating family- and community-level protective factors include the following (Healthier Washington Collaboration Portal, n.d.):

- **Positive Community Norms pilot survey.** This project developed and piloted a survey instrument, in collaboration with local health jurisdiction partners, to assess positive community norms supporting parents and caregivers. The instrument is intended to help community partners develop strategies that build on the community's existing protective factors, strengthen prevention efforts, and inform future positive-norms campaigns.
- **HOPE local health jurisdiction community of practice.** This initiative brings together local health jurisdiction staff to share knowledge, build skills, and support the application of the HOPE framework in public health practice.
- **Paid family and medical leave (PFML) implementation evaluation.** In collaboration with academic and State partners, this project evaluated the implementation of Washington's PFML program to understand how it supports child and family well-being and identify ways to improve access to PFML.

Learn more about Washington's EfC initiatives by exploring the [Healthier Washington Collaboration Portal](#).

Collaborating With Faith-Based Partners to Support Families

Faith-based partners can help prevent child maltreatment by strengthening protective factors in families and communities. They offer spaces to build relationships, reduce isolation, provide informal support, and supply concrete resources such as child care and food pantries. At the systems level, they help agencies extend prevention efforts and promote family well-being.

Several jurisdictions collaborate with faith communities as part of their prevention strategies. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' [Faith-Based Program](#) creates opportunities to support families, provide concrete assistance, and partner with child welfare professionals on prevention efforts. In Washington, DC, [DC127](#) works with the District's Child and Family Services Agency and other local partners to mobilize churches to provide wraparound services and support foster and kin caregivers.

The [Connections Matter](#) community-based training initiative offers curricula designed to educate specific sectors about the intersection of ACEs, trauma, brain development, and resilience. The [curriculum for faith-based communities](#) is designed to teach the effects of toxic stress and how to prevent it.

COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

For more than 30 years, the Children's Bureau's Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program has been developing programs and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect. Managed by a State lead agency in all 50 States, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, CBCAP supports the collaboration and coordination of resources and activities to strengthen families and reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment. This work includes implementing and evaluating programs using a protective factors approach.

Learn how States are implementing CBCAP initiatives aligned with protective factors approaches by reading [summaries of exemplary practices](#) on the FRIENDS website. FRIENDS also developed [protective factors surveys](#) designed for use with parents and caregivers (in civilian families and military families) participating in family support and child maltreatment prevention services. The surveys assess multiple protective factors to help programs measure changes in family strengths over time. For more information about CBCAP, including child maltreatment prevention activities authorized under this program, visit [What Is CBCAP?](#) on the FRIENDS website.

Enhancing Evaluation of Community Efforts to Support Families

[Building Capacity to Evaluate Child Welfare Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families](#) (CWCC), funded by the Children's Bureau from 2018 to 2025, helped States, communities, and Tribes develop collaborative strategies to strengthen families, prevent child welfare involvement, and keep families together. Through partnerships across child welfare, prevention, and community-based systems, grant recipients improved coordination and connected families with needed supports.

A key component of the project was building evaluation capacity so that grant recipients could better assess the effectiveness of their prevention efforts. With support from the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), grant recipients received technical assistance with evaluation. They participated in a cross-site process evaluation examining how partnerships identified and supported families before child welfare involvement.

OPRE also developed briefs, tools, and videos highlighting lessons learned and effective approaches to collaboration, evaluation, and prevention. These resources can help other communities plan, implement, and assess family-strengthening efforts. Visit the [CWCC project overview webpage](#) to explore resources, including the following:

- [An Introduction to the Child Welfare Community Collaborations Grantees and Strategies](#)
- [Child Welfare Community Collaborations Projects at a Glance](#)

CONCLUSION

A protective factors approach to preventing child maltreatment provides vital support to children and families by focusing on individual and family strengths and on the conditions that systems, communities, and policies can help create to support families. Evidence-based, data-informed agencies and systems strengthen cross-disciplinary partnerships, promote family well-being, and support earlier access to services and community-based supports for families before a crisis occurs.

Protective factors such as access to concrete supports and social connections help parents build safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for their children. But these factors depend not only on an individual's or a family's characteristics and resilience. They are also affected by factors such as the availability of services in a family's community, service partnerships that can provide more comprehensive and coordinated support, and policies and practices that strengthen families' protective factors and shape the environments in which families live. Protective factors approaches can help systems and communities better support families in overcoming challenges, building resilience, and promoting positive experiences that buffer children against adversity and reduce the risk of maltreatment.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources support protective factors approaches in child welfare.

MORE ABOUT PROTECTIVE FACTORS APPROACHES AND PREVENTION

- [Information Gateway's Prevention web section](#) provides resources to learn more about prevention in child welfare.
- [FRIENDS Protective Factors webpage](#) provides detailed descriptions of each protective factor, examples of strategies programs can use to support each factor, information about other protective factors frameworks, and relevant research.
- [Expanding the Perspectives and Research Foundation for the Strengthening Families and Youth Thrive Frameworks](#) expands the research base for these frameworks by including perspectives and topics not addressed in the original reports.

APPLYING PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN PRACTICE

- [Protective Factors Conversation Guides](#) help service providers engage caregivers in personalized conversations about protective factors.
- [Parent Need 2 Know Resources](#) are designed to help parents and those who work with them build protective factors using the Strengthening Families approach.
- [Promoting Resilience for Systems-Impacted Families](#) offers guidance on how professionals working with families can promote key types of positive experiences for family well-being.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- [Tools and Training: Strengthen Your Prevention Toolkit](#) offers deep dives into a variety of areas relevant to violence prevention programs and practice, including a learning hub that helps users interpret and apply data on ACEs and PCEs to inform prevention activities as well as training on topics such as prevention principles, recognizing ACEs, and preventing ACEs.
- [Protective Factors Online Training](#) includes information on "Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work: A Resource for Action," an in-person or online training on protective factors.

ASSESSMENT AND MEASUREMENT TOOLS

- [Protective factors surveys](#) are designed for use with parents and caregivers involved in child maltreatment prevention and family support services.
- [Parents' Assessment of Protective Factors](#) is a strengths-based tool for assessing the presence, strength, and growth of parents' self-reported beliefs, feelings, and behaviors that are considered indicators of the Strengthening Families protective factors.
- [Youth Thrive Survey](#) is a strengths-based tool to assess the presence and growth of protective and promotive factors in youth and young adults.

COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMS APPROACHES AND IMPLEMENTATION

- [Community Cafés](#) offer tools and local examples to prepare and train caregivers from the community to host conversations in partnership with organizations.
- [Community Toolkit to Prevent Child Neglect](#) includes research, infographics, and factsheets for use in communities to prevent child neglect.
- [Preventing Child Neglect](#) builds on extensive work to promote the protective factors framework, key informant interviews, research findings from the literature, and other strategies for identifying what works to prevent child neglect.
- [What Parents Say About...Building a 21st Century Community-Based Approach to Strengthening Families](#) focuses on strategies to improve the child welfare system by promoting earlier, more preventative supports for families.

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