

**Family Strengthening Initiative
Prevention Goal 1
Instructions for Local Planning Teams to Use in the
Development of Their 5-year Plans.**

Overarching Goal: By 2015 the State will have implemented the Family Strengthening Initiative within its early education and care systems and investigated other possible avenues for implementation.

Annual Progress Goals:

- A. By 30 June 2011, Florida will have designed and developed the family strengthening initiative for use statewide in early education and care.
This includes:
1. Identification of early learning coalitions and Head Start grantees that would serve as early adopters.
 2. Identification of target audience(s) – staff members and parents.
 3. Design and development of training curriculum.
 4. Design of staff resource materials.
 5. Design of parent resource materials.
 6. Creation of the messages to be used for the media component.
 7. Design of the evaluation plan and strategies.
 8. Utilization of a Web site to provide linkages to resources and information for the initiative.
- B. By 30 June 2012, the first phase of implementation of the family strengthening initiative will have commenced.
This includes:
1. Early adopters will have completed training.
 2. Parent and staff resource materials will be produced and used by the early adopters.
 3. Multimedia components will be produced and disseminated.
- C. By 30 June 2013, the first phase of implementation of the family strengthening initiative will have been reviewed and the second phase of implementation will have commenced.
This includes:
1. Review of the experience and results from the early adopters will be completed.
 2. Training, materials and plans will be revised accordingly.
 3. Leadership team will assess the applicability and feasibility for moving to additional systems (e.g., workforce development) for implementation.
 4. Second wave of training including additional early learning coalitions and Head Start grantees will be completed.
 5. Implementation of the media components will be expanded.

- D. By 30 June 2014, the second phase of implementation of the family strengthening initiative will have been reviewed and the third phase of implementation of the family strengthening initiative will have commenced.

This includes:

1. Review of the experience and results from the first two phases of implementation will be completed.
2. Training, materials and plans will be revised accordingly.
3. Planning and design of a five-year initiative for implementation within other state systems will be drafted.
4. Training additional early learning coalitions and Head Start grantees will be completed.
5. Full implementation of the media components.

- E. By 30 June 2015, the family strengthening initiative will have been implemented statewide including the early learning coalitions and Head Start grantees.

This includes:

1. Review of the experience and results from the first three phases of implementation will be completed.
2. Plans for continuation and expansion will be included in the 2015 – 2020 state prevention and permanency plan.

Critical elements or components of this initiative:

1. Focus on the 5 protective factors and 7 program strategies.

Protective Factors:

1. Parental Emotional Resilience – attitude, creativity, ability to rise to challenges
2. Social Connections – positive social ties to parents of their children’s friends
3. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – understanding child development and positive discipline
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need – access to material resources
5. Social and Emotional Competence of Children – dependent on quality of primary relationships

Program Strategies:

1. Facilitate friendships and mutual support
2. Strengthen parenting
3. Respond to family crises
4. Link families to services and opportunities
5. Value and support parents
6. Facilitate children’s social and emotional development
7. Observe and respond to early warning signs of abuse or neglect

2. Provide consistent messages reinforcing the 5 protective factors and 7 program strategies across all programs.
3. Develop leadership teams which include arrays of stakeholders (e.g., professionals from early education and care, health, mental health, interfaith, workforce development, local business, peer professionals, others that may later implement FSI) that reflect the communities to be served.
4. Use Florida's Family Strengthening Initiative Web-based resources that will be launched in 2011.
5. Support parents (especially men) as partners and leaders.
6. Build on infrastructures available nationally and in Florida (e.g., Florida Education Channel, Florida Knowledge Network, Florida agency Web sites, Florida Association of Partners in Education, Early Childhood Association of Florida, Strengthening Families, Center for the Study of Social Policy, etc.)
7. Identify local champion(s).
8. Embrace and ensure staff training and support.
9. Participate in statewide evaluation activities and efforts.
10. Identify local resources and supports necessary to sustain the initiative at the local level.

The State (or responsible party) will provide:

1. Rationale and training on the strategic frame analysis research.
2. Funding options for assisting with implementation.
3. Instructional materials for use in training of staff members.
4. High resolution/fidelity document and media files accessible for download from the Web for use with staff members and parents.
5. Multimedia components.
6. Web- and television-based training options.
7. Evaluation supports.