



GEORGIA Family Support NETWORK

Leveraging state, county, and community networks to strengthen practices and policies that champion Quality Family Support

The [Georgia Family Support Network \(GFSN\)](#) is a collaboration of state, county, and community organizations dedicated to strengthening practices and policies that champion quality family support programs and services across the state. The network encourages members to partner with families, promoting evidence-based and best practice programs that build upon the [Strengthening Families Approach of the Five Protective Factors](#) and the [National Family Support Networks' Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support](#). GFSN fosters member connections through peer learning and mutual support via monthly meetings, webinars, e-newsletters, and member convenings. Member organizations benefit from networking opportunities, access to valuable tools and resources, potential funding prospects, and professional development.

Vision

The GFSN envisions a state in which every family is thriving and has access to a strong and effective family support and strengthening network.

Mission

The mission of GFSN is to leverage state, county, and community networks to strengthen practices and policies that champion quality family support.

Our Goals:

Georgia network members are connected and supported to enhance their effectiveness.

Family Support best practices are fully implemented across Georgia.

The value and impact of the Family Support and Strengthening network is highly visible and leads to increased support for families in Georgia.

Family Resource Centers: The Heart of Family Support

Families represent the most fundamental unit within a society. When families are healthy and strong, communities thrive. A Family Resource Center (FRC) is a community or school-based welcoming hub of support and opportunities for families that enhance their ability to be strong, healthy, and successful. The FRC approach is multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered. The services are responsive to community needs, designed for all families, and provided at no or low cost to participants. FRCs intentionally create connections among caregivers, developing a peer support network and a sense of community.



Our Objectives:

Increase the number of organizations implementing the National Family Support and Strengthening Standards.

Increase the number of families supported by high-quality Family Support programs and services.

Increase the number of local and state policy makers, funders and communities who understand the value and impact of the Family Support Network and are investing or directing resources to organizations implementing the National Standards.



Five Protective Factors of the Strengthening Families Approach

Research studies show that when the five Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. These protective factors build upon family strengths and encourage a family environment that promotes optimal child, youth, and family development.

Parental/Caregiver Resilience

Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.

Social Connections

Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental, and spiritual support.

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Access to concrete support and services that address a family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges. www.FindHelpGA.org family's needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.

www.FindHelpGA.org

Knowledge of Child Development

Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions and establish and maintain relationships.

Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support

Implementing the nationally adopted Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support will raise awareness of quality family support and promote a common language, standards, and evaluation. These Standards integrate and operationalize the Principles of Family Support Practice with the Strengthening Families Framework and its research-based, evidence-informed five Protective Factors.

- Family Centeredness
- Family Strengthening
- Evaluation
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Community Strengthening

The Principles of Family Support Practice

Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.

Staff enhances families' capacity to support the growth and development of all family members – adults, youth, and children.

Families are resources to other families, programs, and communities.

Programs affirm and strengthen families' cultural, racial, and linguistic identities and enhance their ability to function in a multicultural society.

Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to community development.

Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive, and accountable to the families served.

Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal supportive resources. Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues. Principles of family support are modeled in all program activities.