

CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF SOCIAL POLICY'S

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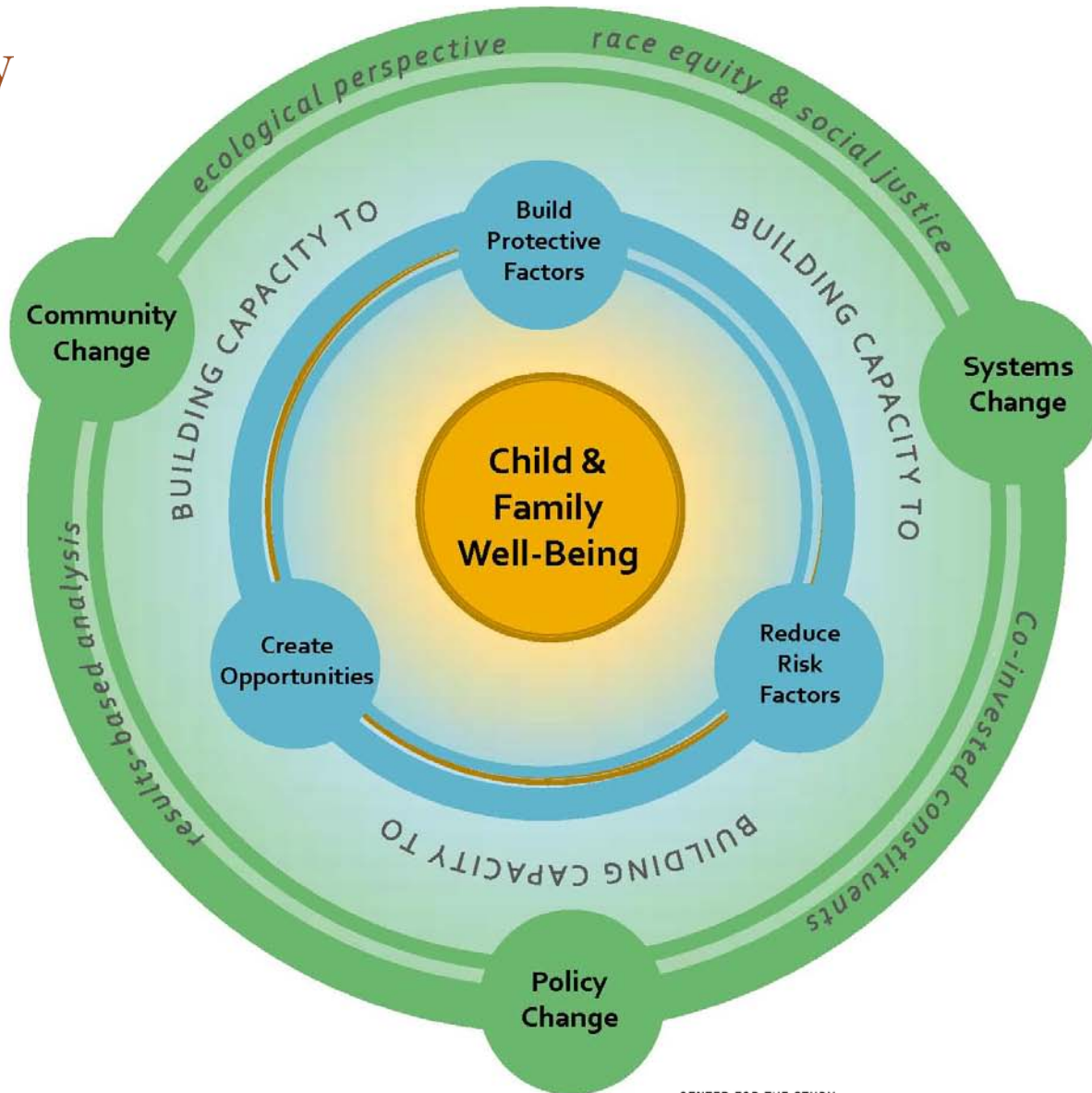
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

Common Ground One Approach, Many Adaptations

Judy Langford

October 2011

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for the
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A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

Mobilizing partners,
communities and families to
build family strengths, promote
optimal development and reduce
child abuse and neglect

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THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES APPROACH

- ***5 Protective Factors***: Grounded in research, practice and implementation knowledge from several fields; provides links across multiple disciplines and service sectors
- ***7 Program Strategies***: Through small but significant changes in everyday practice, the SF approach builds on family strengths, buffers risk, and promotes better outcomes.
- ***3 Levers for Change***: Building on existing strategies and systems, with powerful connections to communities and families.



D O R I S D U K E
C H A R I T A B L E F O U N D A T I O N

In the
beginning....

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PRAGMATIC STARTING POINTS

- Start with what ALL families need to be successful.
- Outline what ALL kinds of programs and services should be building with families.
- Look for clues to success where families already have comfortable relationships, e.g. child care, family resource programs
- Build a new perspective into existing programs and strategies; don't invent a new model

WHAT DO FAMILIES NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL?

| Dimensions | Description |
|-------------------------|---|
| Basic needs | Economic security, housing, health care, other necessary resources are in place |
| Internal resources | Education, expertise, and skills plus connections to extended family, neighbors, co-workers and friends |
| Positive family climate | Nurturing parenting styles, effective communication and warm interactions among family members |
| Self confidence | Sense of control over choices, being valued and able to make a difference; faith that all will be well |

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What we know: Families gain what they need to be successful when key *protective factors* are robust in their lives and communities

FIVE PROTECTIVE FACTORS

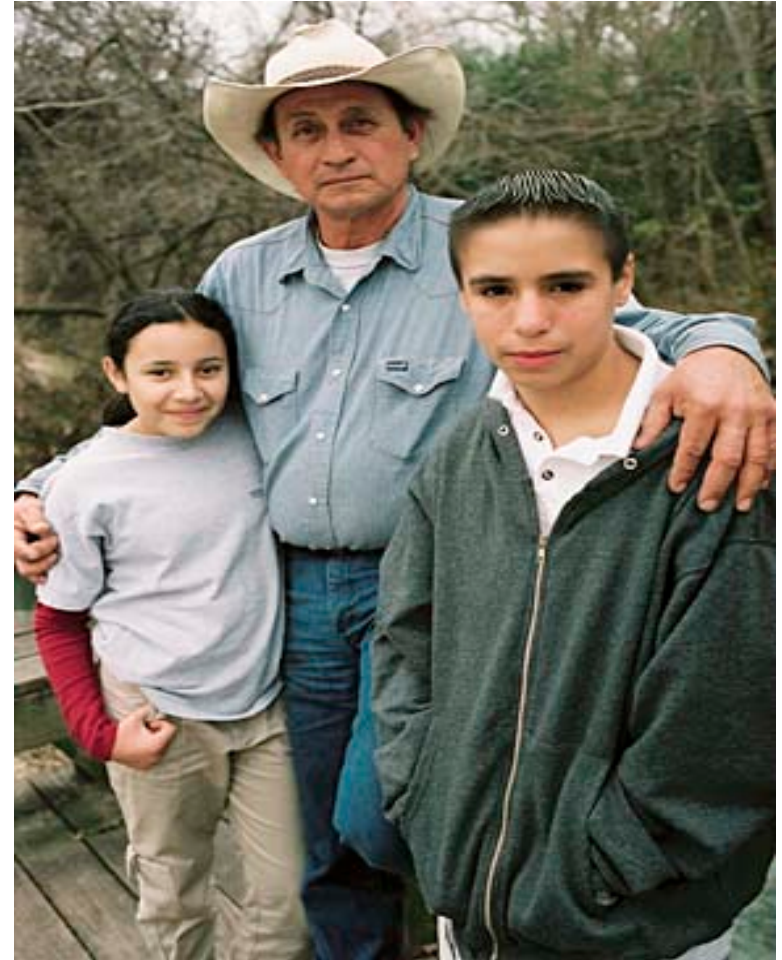
PARENTAL RESILIENCE

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

KNOWLEDGE of PARENTING
and CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CONCRETE SUPPORT in
TIMES of NEED

SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL
COMPETENCE of CHILDREN



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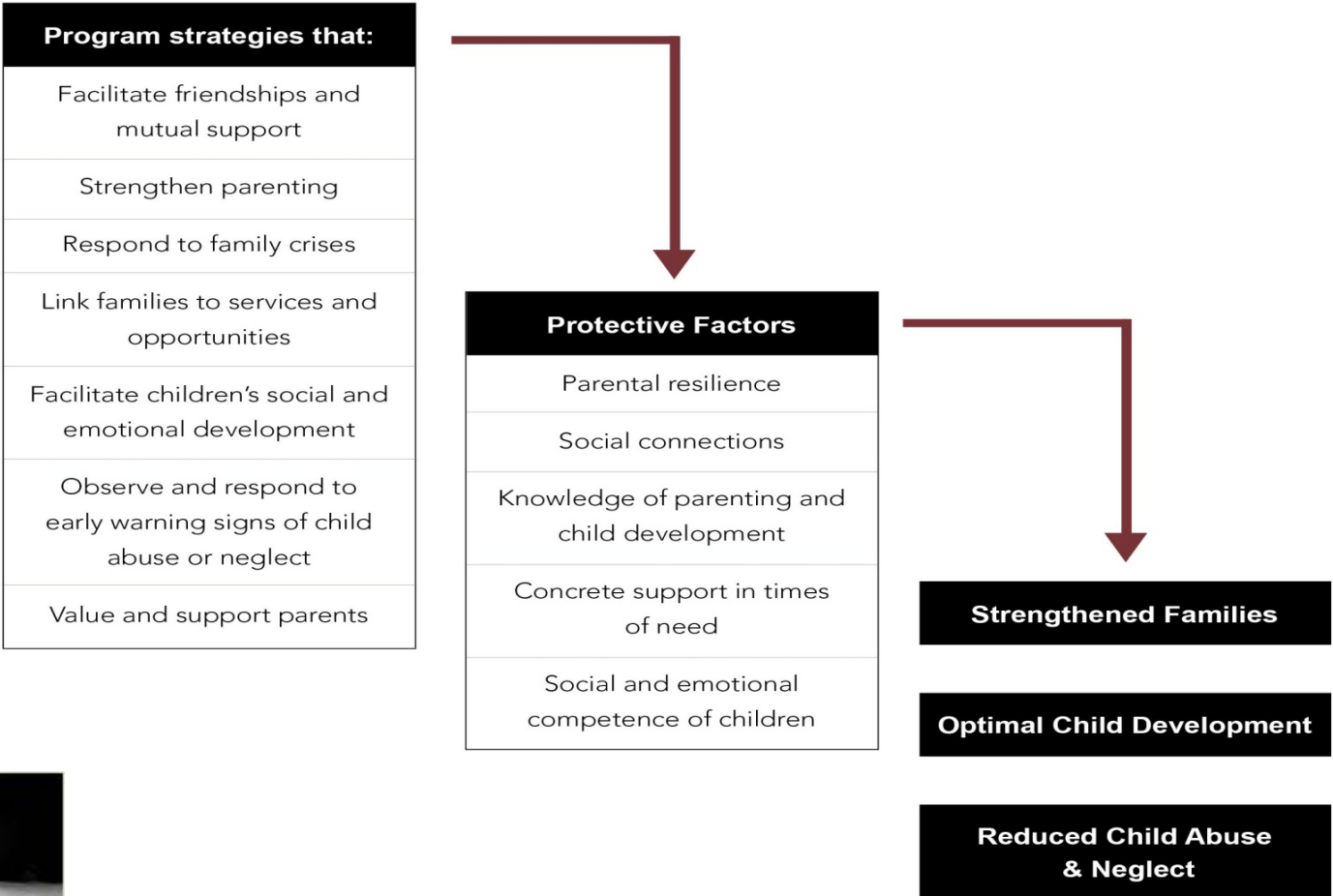
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Learning Network of Exemplary Programs



How programs help strengthen families, promote optimal child development and prevent child abuse and neglect

Small but significant changes



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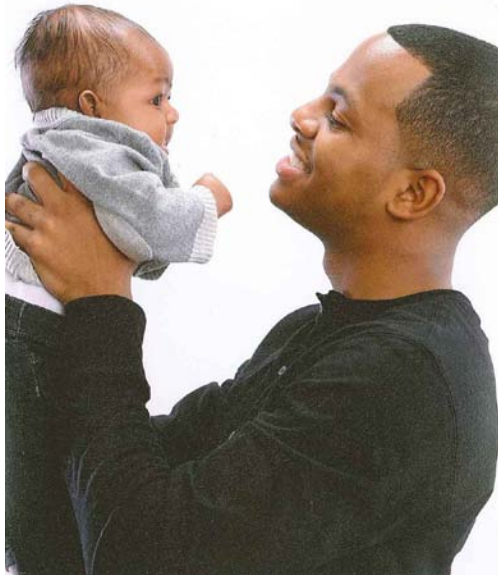
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What happened next:
A surprising leap
from programs
to
policy

A FEW BRAVE INNOVATORS



- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Wisconsin

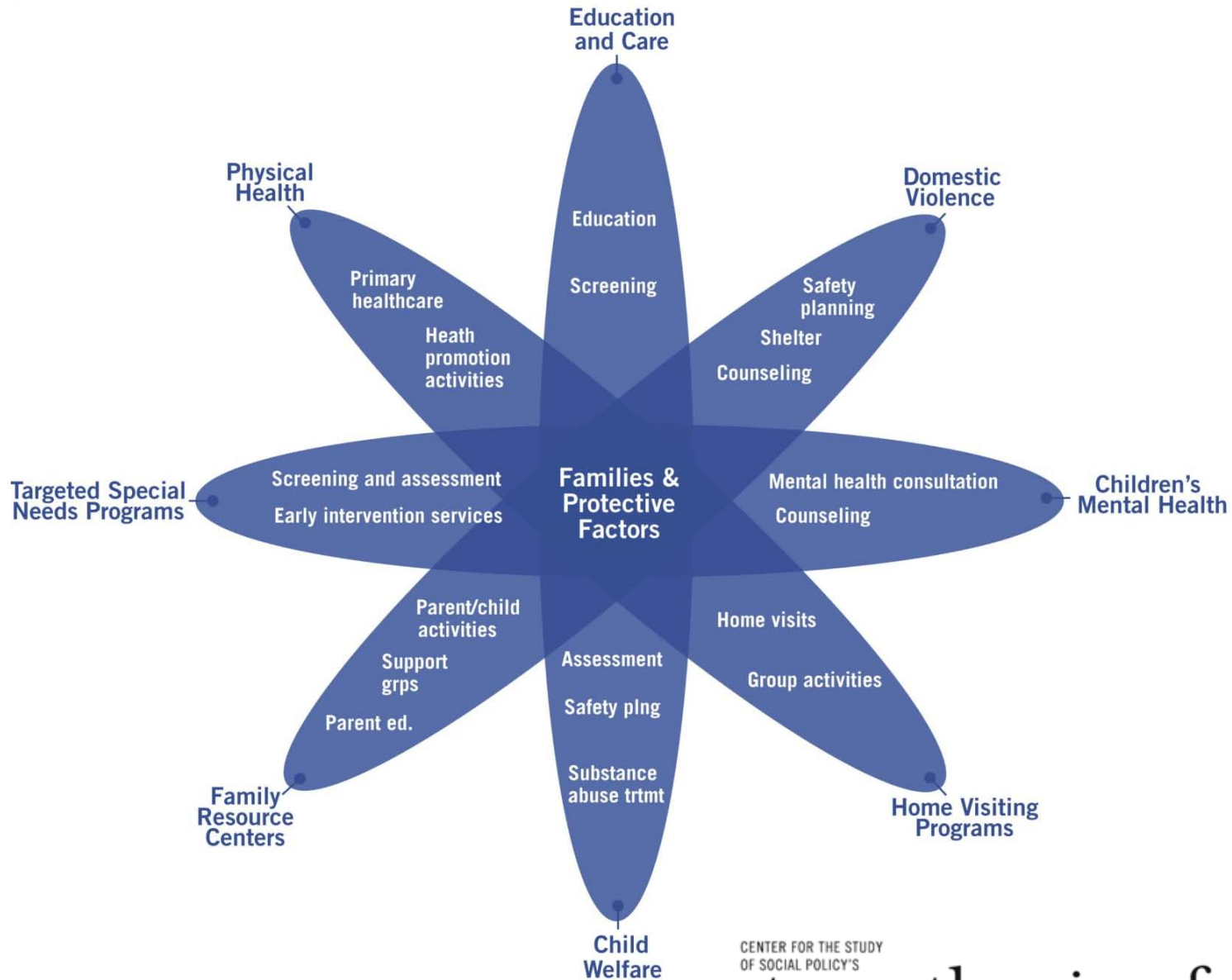
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*Parent leaders, state agencies
and local programs quickly
adapted the framework to create
a platform for linkages across
service systems and a way of
engaging informal opportunities
for families.*

ALIGNING RESULTS FOR FAMILIES



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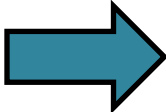
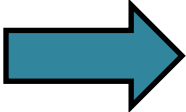
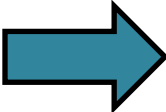
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SERVICES IN PERSPECTIVE

Community



FAMILIES TOOK LEADERSHIP

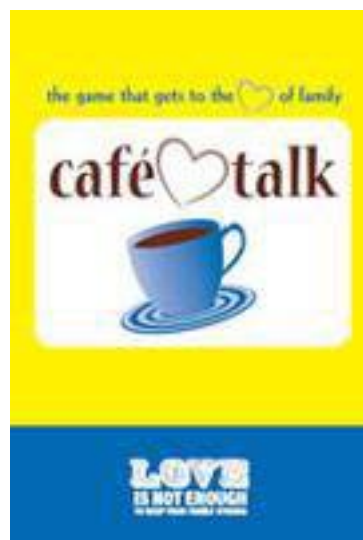
- “at risk” families  all families
- risk factors  protective factors/buffers
to toxic stress
- prevention  promoting strong families
and healthy development

Parental Resilience = Be strong and flexible

LOVE
IS NOT ENOUGH
TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY STRONG

Social Connections = Parents need friends

Knowledge of Parenting = Being a great parent is part natural and part learned



Concrete Support = We all need help sometimes

Social and emotional development for children = Help your children communicate and give them the love and respect they need

COMMUNITY CAFES - WASHINGTON

- ***Parental Resilience*** = Courage
- ***Social Connections*** = Community
- ***Knowledge of Parenting*** = Health
- ***Concrete Support*** = Freedom
- ***Children's Social and Emotional Development*** = Compassion

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This surprising “self-organizing” tipping point was quickly supported by key national organizations, nimble federal partners and a small amount of foundation funding.

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Administration for Children, Youth and Families:
Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect

Administration on Children and Families, Office of
Child Care and Office of Head Start

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (ECCS)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA), local Project Launch sites

Department of Defense, New Parents Program and
Family Advocacy Program



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A FEDERAL FRAMEWORK?

Interagency enthusiasm and structure

- Protective Factors Expert Panel
- Requests for Proposals
- Guidance for state plans (e.g. Early Learning Challenge grants)
- Military services for families

ACYF contract for Protective Factors framework to be developed within the next 18 months

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES NATIONAL NETWORK



Parents as Teachers



ZERO
TO
THREE®

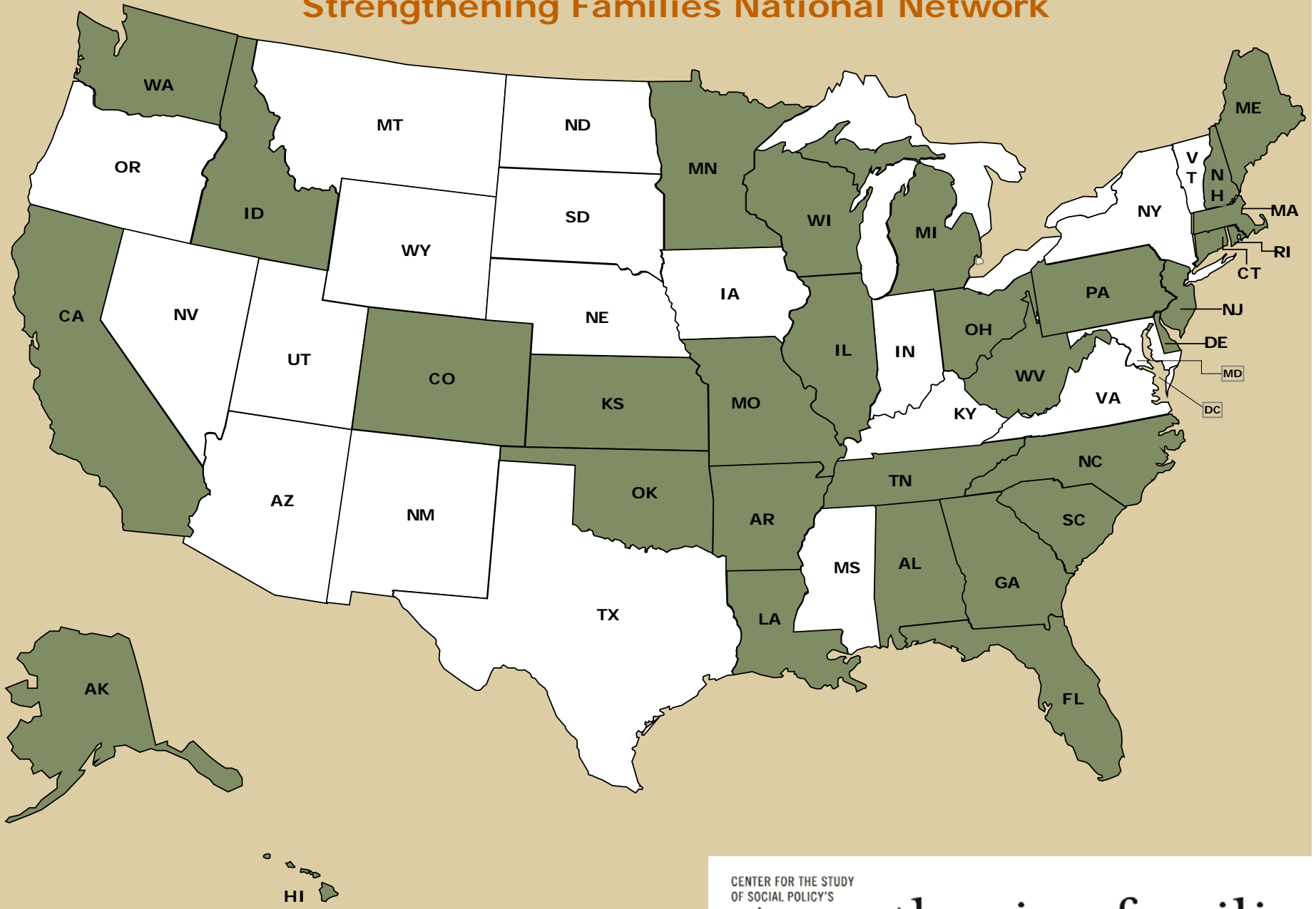
National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families



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Strengthening Families National Network



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LEVERS FOR IMPLEMENTING AND SUSTAINING STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

- Integration into policies and systems

- Professional development



- Real parent partnerships

Strengthening Families: Creating a New Normal



A New Normal

Families and communities, service systems and organizations:

- Focus on building protective and promotive factors to reduce risk and create optimal outcomes for children, youth and families
- Recognize and support parents as decision makers and leaders
- Value the culture and unique assets of each family
- Are mutually responsible for better outcomes for children, youth and families

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www.strengtheningfamilies.net

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