

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION: THRIVING FAMILIES THROUGH A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

YMCA CHILDCARE RESOURCE SERVICE



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE NEED:

43,779

reports made to child abuse hotline, representing 79,598 children²

13%

of reports were substantiated³

79%

of substantiated reports for children under age 5 involve neglect²



16%

of children experienced 2 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences¹

33%

of San Diego families live with incomes too low to cover basic living expenses⁴



OUR RESPONSE:

Our collaboration will streamline how under-resourced families access supportive services to increase their protective factors and decrease child maltreatment and entry into the child welfare system.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The project will support families, caregivers, and early care and education providers of children, ages 0–5, by streamlining access to resources and increasing protective factors to prevent maltreatment.

The project will convene cross-sector partners to improve coordination and family access to services reduce entry into foster care, support family and child well-being, and monitor, evaluate, and report on strategies and outcomes.

Initial core partners include: YMCA of San Diego County, County of San Diego Child Welfare Services, Social Policy Institute at San Diego State University, Harder+Company Community Research.

ABOUT THE YMCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Every day, the YMCA of San Diego County strengthens communities for kids, adults, seniors and families with programs that protect, teach, connect, heal, nourish and encourage. It's how we help communities find the power of their full potential. We focus our work in three primary areas: Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.

Every family is different and many face more than economic challenges. Through a diverse range of county-wide programs, we build, strengthen and empower families and individuals to achieve economic stability and mobility. We use prevention and intervention to lift families to sustained self-sufficiency, touching families at all stages of youth development so no one – regardless of their circumstances – suffers the consequences of poverty.

FAMILY PROTECTIVE FACTORS:

Research suggests that socioeconomic status is the strongest predictor of maltreatment rates, with other factors including housing instability, unemployment, homelessness, and exposure to violence. Maltreatment risk factors can be buffered by a multi-sector continuum of prevention services and increasing the following family protective factors as identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy:



Social and emotional competence – a child’s ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate emotions, and establish and maintain relationships;



Knowledge of parenting and child development – understanding the stages of child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social, and emotional development;



Parents’ resilience – a parent’s or caregiver’s ability to navigate the ups and downs of daily life, and manage stress when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma;



Social connections – positive relationships that provide a family emotional, informational, and spiritual support; and



Concrete supports in times of need – access to support and services that address a family’s basic needs, such as food, healthcare, and housing.

Increasing protective factors ensures that risk factors do not become predictive factors.



ACCESS:

Coordinated access to a variety of preventive resources can increase efficiency of family enrollment and improve utilization of services. A multi-sector continuum that delivers consistent services from family-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally-responsive approach is more likely to engage and retain families in services. The project will:

1. Provide linkages to direct services and resources to increase family protective factors, improving child safety and well-being and reducing entry into the child welfare system.
2. Build the capacity of adults to foster optimal child development and increase family well-being by offering services and coaching to families and early care and education providers.
3. Provide cross-agency training and staff development to standardize approaches and improve coordination and family access to services.
4. Offer enhanced prevention services to link families to resources prior to child welfare system involvement.
5. Gather continuous feedback/input from youth and families with lived experience to inform program planning and improve systems-level collaboration.

IMPACT:

Over the five-year grant term, the Collaborative will directly impact 5,000 families while providing training to approximately 400 staff members. Additional activities include ongoing community outreach, co-location across sector sites, and participating in existing community collaboratives to align activities and avoid duplication.

The collaboration will cultivate an environment that helps families increase their protective factors and utilize partnership and program alignment to strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.

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OUR MISSION

The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind and body.