



National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

The Director's Corner

Greetings,

All families experience stress. For low-resource families, these stressors and their impact can be even more complex and problematic; even escalating to emotional or physical abuse. Successful prevention and intervention hinges on understanding the dynamics of a specific family and knowing what information and resources are available in your community to support that family.

The Resource Center's new Family Violence Prevention Tool Kit referenced in the **Featured Resources** section below can be a great resource for social service providers to better understand how issues of family violence can hinder family functioning and efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. More importantly, it offers ideas for being supportive while keeping safety at the forefront.

We hope these **free** resources are helpful to you as you work to strengthen families and improve the lives of children.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, Project Director



Tip of the Month

Your monthly tip to strengthen the relationships of those you serve. *Share it - Post it - Pass it on!*

In support of Child Abuse Prevention Month, this month's tip section identifies facts and resources to address one of the most frequently asked questions: "I mostly work with single moms. Healthy marriage and relationship education doesn't apply to my work, does it?" The answer: "Yes, it does!"

- **FACT:** Nonresident parents—and their relationship with the other parent—play an important role in their children's healthy functioning. Healthy relationship skills (e.g.,

communication, conflict management) apply to co-parenting relationships. [Learn more from our virtual library](#)

- **FACT:** "Single parents" are not really single; they are unmarried. Many are dating, in a committed relationship, cohabitating, rearing their children with help from another family member, and/or want to be in a healthy, committed relationship. All of those situations involve present or future intimate relationships, model relationship skills for children, and impact the health, safety, stability and self-sufficiency of the family. See [Healthy Dating Leads to Healthy Marriage](#) for more facts and tips.
- **FACT:** High conflict in the home and intimate partner violence negatively impact a child's functioning. While relationship education is not a safety intervention; it is part of holistic preventive services that support a wide range of individuals in having the skills and knowledge to identify unhealthy relationship signs and make healthy, informed relationship decisions. The Resource Center's free, online course, [Strong Relationships, Strong Families: Introduction to Healthy Relationship Education Skills for Stakeholders](#) teaches more about the preventive benefits and methods of integration.



Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 500 materials in a variety of formats - including factsheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

Click the link below to view our featured April resources:

- [Merging marriage and relationship education into child welfare services \(Tip Sheet\).](#)
- [Family violence prevention: A toolkit for stakeholders.](#)
This new toolkit provides information and resources on incorporating domestic violence and child maltreatment awareness into service provision. It includes information about increasing your understanding of these issues and identifying other beneficial resources or referrals in your community that may support efforts to institute healthy relationship policies and practices.



Events

The Resource Center's [Events Calendar](#) offers a listing of Resource Center events and other national, regional, and community-wide events that might be of interest. Upcoming events include:

- This month, the Resource Center is convening the **West Virginia Integration Institute**- a one day training event for safety-net service providers across the State of West Virginia. Attendees will have an opportunity to share information regarding their agencies' current efforts to promote relationship skills; participate in facilitated discussions regarding healthy marriage and relationship education skills and integration strategies; and engage in consensus building and action planning activities. This event is by invitation only. However, if you would like more information on upcoming institutes or to organize an event in your state or area, please [contact us](#).
- [40th Annual Head Start Conference, April 30- May 3 in Oxon Hill, MD:](#) The NHTA's 40th annual Head Start conference will delve into the 'how' of implementing the expectations that were set in their earlier sessions at the OHS Leadership Institute, which

supports the use of data by Head Start leaders to promote school readiness and inform quality improvement. The National Resource Center will be exhibiting at this conference.

Feedback and Technical Assistance:

If you have suggestions or wish to speak with a Resource Center staff member, please [contact us](#) and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like to request Technical Assistance, please submit a [Training and Technical Assistance Request Form](#) and our Technical Assistance Coordinator will contact you.

To learn more about the Resource Center visit us at www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports safety-net service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: [90FH0002]. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.