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Are you ready? Integrating relationship education skills A Note from the Director

The [National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families](#) promotes the integration of healthy relationship skills into existing service delivery systems as part of a holistic approach to strengthening families. Healthy marriage education skills are the core components of healthy relationship education and include interpersonal skills such as communication and conflict resolution, along with critical skills like parenting and financial education. It's important to point out that relationship education classes are not the only way to strengthen those skills. The Resource Center offers strategies for promoting healthy marriage and relationships through information sharing with clients including [free resources](#) that you can use as handouts. I hope the following tips and resources are helpful to you and your colleagues in expanding your own efforts to strengthen families.

Best Regards,
Robyn Cenizal, CFLE, Project Director

Tip of the Month

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

Knowing if you're prepared to integrate healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) skills into you work with families starts with understanding what the skills are, why they are important, and what you are already doing. Here are some questions from our [Relationship Education Assessment](#) to help you figure it out:

- Do I understand the importance of healthy relationships for individuals, families, and communities?
- Do I generally understand the components of healthy relationship education?
- Do I understand the ways in which healthy relationship education benefits the people I serve?

Unsure about these points? Learn more below with our Featured Resources.

Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 3,000 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

- **Understand the Importance: Healthy Relationship Education - What, Why, and How It's Part of Strengthening Families**

This webinar was designed for Federal, State, Tribal, and Local agency administrators and social service providers. It explored the value of healthy marriage and relationship education skills for couples and families, as well as strategies for integrating these skills into safety-net service systems as a holistic approach to strengthening families. The featured guest presenter was James P. Marshall, Associate Professor - Family Life, University of Arkansas. This webinar also introduced resources and tools that are available from the Resource Center.

- **Understand the Components: Virtual Training Center**

Our Virtual Training Center courses are developed based on current research regarding the core components and benefits of healthy marriage and relationship education and skills. Available for free and for continuing education units (CEUs), all courses can be accessed by logging into your personalized account. There are courses focused on each of the four healthy marriage and relationship skills: Communication, Conflict Management, Parenting, and Financial Management.

- **Understand the Benefits: Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education:**

- **What's the Point?**

What's the point of healthy marriage and relationship education skills? What impact could integrating these skills have for the families you serve? In this podcast, Resource Center Project Director Robyn Genizal has a conversation with Dr. Dave Schramm, Ph.D. Associate Professor at the University of Missouri within the Human Development and Family Studies department, and with Colleen Ellingson, Chief Executive Officer at the Coalition for Children, Youth and Families, about addressing these critical issues.

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:

- **NIEA 48th Annual Convention and Trade Show, Orlando, FL, Oct. 4 - 7 2017**

The 2017 National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention theme, "Building Education Nations by Amplifying Innovative Voices," recognizes the role educators and communities play in shaping the future leaders of Native education. The three-day convention will include innovative participatory workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses by prominent educators and advocates.

- **2017 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, Palm Springs, CA, Oct. 22-25, 2017**

The theme for this year's 2017 National Dropout Prevention Network Conference is "A New Vision for Dropout Prevention" and will emphasize Career Technical Education/ Workforce Development, The Arts and Careers, and Students and Families in Trauma. Attendees include school board members, superintendents, principals, community leaders, and other decision makers who are actively looking for effective programs to take back their schools and communities.

Feedback and Technical Assistance

To learn more about the Resource Center, visit us at <http://www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org/>.

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports human 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.

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. To learn more about free training and technical assistance

available to human service agencies, visit our [Training and Technical Assistance page](#).

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