



Issue 47 | December 2016

## Celebrating Diversity this Holiday Season

### A Note from the Director

'Tis' the season to enjoy family, friends and festivities! As you celebrate this season, consider learning about the holiday traditions of others who live in your community. Make it a family activity by reading a book together about different holiday traditions or cultures. You might even try cooking and serving a recipe from another country. The more we learn about those who are different, the more we realize how much we have in common and begin to appreciate the cultural diversity that exists in our communities. I hope the tips and resources included in this newsletter will be helpful to you and the families you serve as we all work together to strengthen our families and communities.

Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!  
**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!

Our nation's rich cultural diversity is reflected in the variety of holidays and

traditions that we practice. Our different perspectives, experiences, and cultures also influence the way that we view relationships. Delivering healthy marriage and relationship education in a culturally responsive way increases its value to participants and can strengthen the participant-provider relationship. Here are some tips to integrate relationship education in a culturally responsive way:

- Develop a culturally diverse, multi-lingual staff that is welcoming to participants from different cultures;
- Consider the distinctions between the ways that cultures perceive marriage, relationships, and families; and
- Understand the preferred learning styles of the cultural groups you serve.

## Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 1,300 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

- **[Spanish Language Tip Sheets for Families and Service Providers](#)**

The Resource Center is excited to share a new collection of tip sheets for Spanish-speaking families and providers. These core resources address four key areas of relationship education: communication, conflict management, financial management, and parenting. One set of tip sheets is directed to families and can be used as handouts or conversation guides. The second set of tip sheets is designed to help service providers integrate core relationship concepts into existing services.

- **[Raising Young Children in a New Country: Supporting Early Learning and Healthy Development](#)**

This handbook was created for Early Head Start/Head Start programs, Refugee Resettlement and other community agencies serving refugees and immigrants to ensure that newcomer parents have the basic information they need about raising young children in the U.S. Although newcomers may find the handbook useful by itself, it is primarily intended for service providers to use together with their refugee and immigrant clients. It is targeted to newcomer parents with low levels of English proficiency and/or low literacy levels.

- **[Fostering Culturally Responsive Services](#)**

The Resource Center has developed a series of guides to help service providers deliver culturally responsive relationship education to diverse cultural groups. They include a general tip sheet on culturally responsive marriage education, *Working with Couples and Families in the Orthodox Jewish Community*, *Working*

*with Muslim Couples and Families, Working with African-American Individuals, Couples, and Families: A Toolkit for Stakeholders, Working with American Indian and Alaska Native Individuals, Couples, and Families: A Toolkit for Stakeholders, and Working with Latino Individuals, Couples, and Families: A Toolkit for Stakeholders.* Stay tuned for upcoming resources for additional cultural groups.

## 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:

- **SSWR 21st Annual Conference: Ensure Healthy Development for All Youth, January 11-15, 2017**

The SSWR Annual Conference offers a scientific program that reflects a broad range of research interests, from workshops on the latest quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to symposia featuring studies in child welfare, aging, mental health, welfare reform, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS. Over 500 symposia, workshops, roundtables, and paper and poster presentations. Research methods workshops and special sessions on research priorities and capacity building that target cutting-edge topics vital to contemporary social work research. Pre-conference programs and a networking reception for doctoral students.

- **Webinar - Linking Data Science and Behavioral Science to Build Better Poverty Policy, January 18, 2017**

In recent years, researchers and policymakers have become more interested in applying "big data" and behavioral insights to understanding and responding to poverty, but often these two domains are thought of separately. In this webinar from the Institute for Research on Poverty, the presenters will explore how data science and behavioral science can be applied together to help build better poverty-related policies.

- **31st San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, January 31 - February 3, 2017**

The San Diego Conference focuses on multi-disciplinary best-practice efforts to prevent, if possible, or otherwise to investigate, treat, and prosecute child and family maltreatment. The objective of the San Diego Conference is to develop and enhance professional skills and knowledge in the prevention, recognition, assessment and treatment of all forms of maltreatment, including those related to family violence, as well as to enhance investigative and legal skills. In-depth issues include support for families, prevention, leadership, and policymaking. Translating the latest research into action is also addressed.

## 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](http://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.

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: 90FH0003. 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.