



## *National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families*

### **The Director's Corner**

Greetings,

As the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers," which makes May a perfect time of year to focus on diversity. Much like the vast array of spring blooms we see all around us, our communities are filled with individuals and families representing diverse cultural, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. This diversity enriches our community and offers opportunities to expand our own worldview. Learning to provide culturally competent services to families is important for service providers who may serve families different from their own. We hope the following tips and resources will be helpful to you in your efforts to more effectively serve culturally diverse populations.

Best regards,

Robyn Cenizal, Project Director



### **Tip of the Month**

Visit the Resource Center's [Fostering Cultural Competency](#) web page to learn more about the following tips and resources around cultural competency and healthy marriage and relationship education.

Tips for discussing healthy relationship skills in a culturally appropriate way:

- Avoid assumptions about a particular cultural group.
- Do not assume that, because a client can speak English well, they are able to read it and vice versa. Ask if they need assistance and try to avoid relying on other family members, especially children, to provide translation services.
- Adjust service delivery to fit the needs of your clients. For example, if you serve a largely Muslim population, avoid scheduling Friday afternoon appointments.
- Educate yourself about the population you serve and ask respectful questions to better understand your clients.



### **Featured Resources**

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 900 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

Select the links below to view our featured May resources:

- [\*\*Working with Muslim Couples and Families \(Research-to-Practice Brief\)\*\*](#)  
This research brief provides an overview of the history of Muslims in the United States and discusses cultural and religious nuances to keep in mind when working with Muslim families.
- [\*\*Working with Couples and Families in the Orthodox Jewish Community \(Research-to-Practice Brief\)\*\*](#)  
This research brief provides an overview of the religious and cultural practices in the Orthodox Jewish community and discusses how to make relationship education programs appropriate to the cultural sensitivities of young Jewish adults and families.
- [\*\*A Guide to Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Programs for Hispanic Couples and Families \(Library Resource\)\*\*](#)  
This guide is for Federally- and non-Federally-funded Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education and Responsible Fatherhood programs serving Hispanic couples and fathers. This guide summarizes the various aspects of these programs and facilitates their comparison.



## 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:

- [\*\*National Association for Relationship & Marriage Education \(NARME\) 5th Annual Leadership Summit in Atlanta, GA, June 15-17, 2015\*\*](#): At this year's NARME summit, nationally known leaders across disciplines will present provocative plenary sessions designed to help increase the impact and effectiveness in helping to form, strengthen, stabilize, and support families. Cutting edge workshops will offer resources to assist you in achieving your goals; and, of course, there will be some fantastic opportunities for networking and learning from peers across the country.

## 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.

### ***Special Announcement:***

Responding to public comments, a new set of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood performance measures have been proposed (an additional set of instruments for a cross-site evaluation with a subset of grantees have also been proposed). Please see a short overview at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/03/23/2015-06534/submission-for-omb-review-comment-request>. This Notice has information on how to request a document containing all proposed measures, as well as information on how to comment on the proposal.

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