

Awareness of domestic violence and child maltreatment risk factors, warning signs, and protocols is crucial in enabling service providers to support family safety.



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER *for*
HEALTHY MARRIAGE *and* FAMILIES



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Family Violence Prevention

A Note from the Director

Greetings,

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As an organization that promotes the integration of healthy relationship skills into social service delivery systems, it's important for us to also recognize that not all relationships are healthy.

Unhealthy relationships can include a wide spectrum of behaviors that don't involve physical violence including isolation, financial control, intimidation, and emotional and verbal abuse. To support social service providers in better understanding issues associated with family violence, we're proud to launch our newest online course: [Family Violence Prevention: Increasing Awareness of Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment](#). The course is based on our [toolkit](#), which was developed with input from the Resource Center's [Family Violence Prevention Advisory Panel](#).

The course is designed specifically for safety-net service providers. It provides general information and raises awareness about the importance of addressing domestic violence, child maltreatment, and family safety. We hope you will take

advantage of this free, research-based resource to increase understanding of these issues and support identification of resources in your community that may aid the families you serve in their efforts to maintain family safety and develop healthy relationships.

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!

As a group, families who live in poverty and are connected with social welfare services experience disproportionately high rates of domestic violence victimization within the household. As a result, it is likely that safety-net service providers will work with significant numbers of clients who are victims. Having a general understanding of domestic violence and child maltreatment, along with knowledge of appropriate services and resources, can help providers to serve families effectively and support their safety. Some helpful practices to use when working with families include:

- Listening and being supportive;
- Being aware of and receptive to information and clues;
- Recognizing important information about family relationships and dynamics, and thinking critically about how those dynamics might impact a family service or employment plan; and
- Responding with supportive services, referrals, and crisis intervention as necessary and in accordance with agency policy and practice.

Learn more about the role that domestic violence awareness plays in safety-net services through the Resource Center's new Virtual Training Center course, [Family Violence Prevention](#).

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.

- **[Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence](#)**
This new Resource Center brief addresses the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) on children, approaches to serving children exposed to IPV, and symptoms of exposure to IPV. It explains the dynamics of IPV and explores factors that can influence the level of impact a child experiences. Implications for providers, including "red flags" and resources, are also included.
- **[Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)**
Every State in the United States, the District of Columbia, and most U.S. territories have a mandatory reporting law that requires certain professionals-and sometimes all persons-to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to child protective services or law enforcement. This fact sheet from the Child Welfare Information Gateway includes a listing of professions that are required to report, summaries of state laws, and details about the reporting process.
- **[Special Collection: Navigating the Civil Legal System: Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Their Advocates, and Legal Professionals](#)**
Survivors of domestic violence can face various legal issues, such as obtaining protection orders against abusers, filing for divorce, receiving child support, and determining custody and visitation rights for minor children. This collection, from the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women, provides resources to help survivors, advocates, and legal professionals who are dealing with these types of 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:

- **[2016 NCFR Annual Conference - Families and Human Rights: Promise and Vulnerability in the 21st Century, November 2-5, 2016](#)**
Poverty, hunger, access to education, gender inequalities, climate change, incarceration, and displacement are examples of just some human rights issues faced by families. Using the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development goals as a framework, the purpose of this conference is to showcase research, teaching, and practices that address human rights and diverse families, provide networking opportunities for those with an interest in these topics, and engage and inspire conference attendees in the pursuit of equality and justice for families.
Will you be attending? If so, be sure to come visit our exhibit booth!
- **[NAYEC Annual Conference and Expo, November 2-5, 2016](#)**
The NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo is the largest gathering of thought

leaders, classroom teachers and faculty, administrators, researchers, and other critically important practitioners and contributors in early childhood education.

2016 APPAM Fall Research Conference: The Role of Research in Making Government More Effective, November 3-5, 2016

The APPAM Fall Research Conference is a multi-disciplinary annual research conference that attracts the highest quality research on a wide variety of important current and emerging policy and management issues. The annual Fall Research Conference is the association's premier forum for disseminating research findings and engaging in discussions with policy makers and other practitioners about the implications of those findings for improving policy and governance.

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.

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