



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



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Embracing Diversity

A Note from the Director

We are a very diverse country as it relates to race, religion, cultural, and ideology. Recent events remind us that as far as we'd like to think we've come towards embracing our country's rich diversity, we still have a long way to go. We don't have to look the same, act the same, or agree with each other to accept and respect each other. Violence, hatred, and abuse are learned behaviors as illustrated in the video, [Children See, Children Do](#). Open communication and healthy conflict management are essential to our efforts as a society to find ways to coexist peacefully. More importantly, modeling these healthy behaviors are critical to breaking the cycle of generational hatred and bigotry. I hope these tips, tools, and resources will be helpful to you and the families you serve in your efforts to strengthen families and improve the lives of children in your communities.

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!

Service providers working with diverse populations need to understand their clients' cultural values in order to effectively provide services and appropriately address any misunderstandings or issues that may arise. Relationship education must be integrated into services in culturally appropriate ways because culture:

- affects how individuals and families pass values, behaviors, and attitudes from one generation to the next;
- shapes how people view the world and their relationships; and
- influences how individuals behave within their romantic relationships.

You can find resources on helping to develop and foster cultural awareness among your staff [on our website](#).

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.

- **Video: Working with Latino Individuals, Couples, and Families: Cultural Components**

Family life plays an important role in the lives of Latinos, influencing daily decisions, values, and priorities. This instructional video explores the implications of cultural components that need to be understood and taken into account in order to work successfully with Latino families. This is a companion piece to the Resource Center's [Working with Latino Individuals, Couples, and Families Toolkit](#).

- **Toolkit: Working with American Indian and Alaska Native Individuals, Couples, and Families: A Toolkit for Stakeholders**

This toolkit uses a backdrop of significant historical events as a foundation for understanding perspectives, improving communication, and strengthening relationships when working with American Indian/Alaskan Native families, couples, and individuals. This toolkit provides practical suggestions for engaging and serving this population, particularly for incorporating healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive family-centered approach to promoting self-sufficiency.

- **Podcast: Working with African American Individuals, Couples, and Families**

This podcast features highlights from the Resource Center [February 2014 webinar](#). The podcast includes information on the importance of cultural competency in program delivery, federal initiatives and priorities on healthy marriage and relationship education, and the role of relationships and marriage in the African American community. The webinar and podcast are companion pieces

to the Resource Center's [Working with African American Individuals, Couples, and Families Toolkit](#).

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:

- **14th Annual "Fatherhood Is Leadership" National Conference, Scottsdale, AZ, Nov. 1-3, 2017**

The Native American Fatherhood & Families Association is holding its 14th Annual "Fatherhood Is Leadership" conference November 1-3, 2017 in Scottsdale, AZ. This 3-day conference for parents and community agency staff features workshops in four focus areas: education, criminal justice, health & human services, fatherhood and motherhood. The conference will illustrate specific strategies and program practices proven to be effective in issues facing families today.

- **2017 NCFR Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, Nov. 15-18, 2017**

At the 2017 National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) annual conference, the goal is to challenge scholars, practitioners and policymakers to reframe the narrative on families and ask: How do family relations and functions advance the lives of children and adults, as well as build stronger schools, communities, workplaces and nations? How do families function as catalysts, at multiple levels, for a vibrant, healthy and well-functioning society?

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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