



National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

The Director's Corner

Greetings,

On August 28, 2013, tens of thousands of citizens from across the country converged on Washington, DC to commemorate the historic **March for Jobs and Freedom** 50 years earlier on August 28, 1963 in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. orated his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to a crowd of 250,000 who marched for freedom from oppression and access to equal employment. Standing on the Lincoln Memorial steps as Dr. King had done 50 years before, President Obama addressed the crowd reflecting on significant progress such as the civil rights laws while acknowledging there is still more progress to be made towards economic opportunity.

Low income and culturally diverse populations still struggle to access needed services and employment opportunities to assist them in moving to self-sufficiency and realizing the American dream. The resources below address some of the challenges faced by these families; highlight nuances within various cultures that can affect service delivery; and offer guidance for better serving diverse families. The resources also offer strategies for promoting culturally appropriate relationship education skills as part of a holistic approach to strengthening families.

We hope these resources will be helpful to you as you work to assist families in overcoming barriers to success. If you are aware of other free resources that may be beneficial to those who serve culturally diverse populations, please email us at info@healthymarriageandfamilies.org

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, Project Director



Tip of the Month

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

Identifying shared values and goals helps bind couples together and focus their relationship in a common direction. **Values** are personal standards for how an individual wants to live; they might include following cultural traditions (e.g., sweat lodge, midnight Mass at Christmas). **Goals** are desires that are specific and attainable with planning, such as moving in or out of a neighborhood, celebrating a holiday the same way each year, starting a savings plan, or buying a car.

Try one of these conversation starters to help those you serve explore shared values and goals:

- What are some things you both want to see happen in the next month? What makes those things important to you?
- What are some traditions that you repeat each year? (Prompts: like going to bed after midnight for New Year's or celebrating Thanksgiving with a ham or at a Chinese food restaurant?)



Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 500 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 September resources:

- [Working with African American individuals, couples, and families: A toolkit for stakeholders \(Toolkit\)](#)
This new toolkit from the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families uses a backdrop of significant historical events as a foundation for understanding perspectives, improving communication, and strengthening relationships with those in the African American community. This toolkit is grounded in current research and draws on the experience of practitioners to provide 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.
- [Working with Latino individuals, couples, and families: A toolkit for stakeholders \(Toolkit\)](#)
This toolkit is designed to help stakeholders—including administrators, supervisors, and safety-net service providers—around the country better serve Latino families, couples, and individuals. This toolkit will help service providers acquire cultural competence and covers important topics in the research literature with input from experts in the field. Each chapter highlights program development and implementation recommendations, including case studies with discussion questions.
- [Considering culture when integrating healthy marriage education skills \(Tip Sheet\)](#)
This tip sheet provides information for safety-net service providers on culturally appropriate ways to integrate healthy marriage and relationship education concepts and skills into services so that clients are more likely to be receptive to the messages provided.
- [Cultural collisions: Addressing service implications of the balance of power in immigrant families \(Tip Sheet\)](#)
This tip sheet explores ways that safety-net service providers can meet the diverse needs of immigrant families while respecting traditional cultural roles.



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 of Community Development Extension Professionals \(NACDEP\) Galaxy IV 2013 Conference in Pittsburgh, PA September 16-20, 2013](#): The Galaxy Conference provides a unique opportunity to work together on a joint conference while celebrating the diversity of the individual organizations. Every five years the Joint Council of Extension Professionals sponsors and provides leadership for a Galaxy Conference for the entire Extension System. This conference invites participation from all JCEP organizations, ECOP and other partners critical to the Extension mission.
- [National League of Cities \(NLC\) 21st Annual Leadership Summit in Savannah, GA September 26-28, 2013](#): Join renowned leaders, authors and scholars as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. The NLC's Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and appreciate what you can do to enhance your success as a municipal leader.

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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