



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



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Supporting Low-Income and Homeless Families and Individuals

A Note from the Director

Greetings,

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness month. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, over the course of 2016, roughly half a million people in families stayed at a homeless shelter or transitional housing program - 292,166 were children, and 144,991 were under the age of six.

When we think of homelessness, we often think of the chronically homeless - those with substance abuse or mental health issues. However, many individuals

and families are homeless as a result of circumstances such as the loss of a job or stable housing. It's important to recognize that families experiencing circumstantial homelessness have different needs than those of the chronically homeless.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness' [website](#) offers a variety of resources that providers can use to meet the unique needs of youth and families facing homelessness and economic instability.

We hope the tips and resources below will be helpful to you and the families you serve as we work together to strengthen families.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal

Robyn Cenizal, CFLE
Project Director

Tip of the Month

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

The most important thing you can do to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness is being aware of the resources available in your community.

Homeless advocates advise against giving cash to panhandlers. Aside from the fact that not all panhandlers are actually homeless, the money is not likely to change their circumstance. Instead advocates encourage directing homeless toward available services to ensure they receive adequate support. If you feel there's an immediate need for food, consider providing food along with information regarding services. A sandwich and bottle of water may brighten their day - and yours.

The following agencies offer additional tips and resources:

- [The National Coalition for the Homeless](#) - A national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected.

- [United States Interagency on Homelessness](#) - A federal agency that works to organize and support leaders such as Governors, Mayors, Continuum of Care leaders, and other local officials, to drive action to achieve the goals of the federal strategic plan to prevent homelessness and ensure that homelessness in America is ended once and for all.
- [Family Promise](#) - Family Promise offers a holistic approach to the crisis of family homelessness. Their programs address the range of issues that affect low-income families. These include direct services, educational curricula, prevention programs and more. Their mission is to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community based response.

Exploring these resources can help you form stronger connections with homeless families and individuals and learn more about programs and information available to better serve this population.

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.

- **Working with Homeless Couples**
This tip sheet is meant to increase awareness of the complex challenges faced by homeless individuals, couples, and families, as well as to offer tips for safety-net service providers who are working to help them achieve self-sufficiency.
- **Runaway & Homeless Youth and Relationship Violence Toolkit**
This toolkit from the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence was developed by and for advocates in the runaway and homeless youth (RHY) and domestic and sexual assault (DV/SA) fields to help programs better address relationship violence with runaway and homeless youth.
- **Integrating Healthy Relationship Education: A Course for Stakeholders**
[The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families](#) is excited to announce the launch of its revised online course Integrating Healthy Relationship Education: A Course for Stakeholders. Designed to complement the in-person Integration Institute offered by the Resource Center, the online course educates

attendees on the benefits of healthy relationships and costs of unhealthy relationships; shares research about how healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) can improve family outcomes; and guides users in developing specific strategies for integrating HMRE into their service delivery. For more information about the course or how to share with your clients, contact us at info@healthymarriageandfamilies.org.

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:

- **Fourth Annual CQI Community Conference - In Pursuit of Quality: Building A Dynamic CQI Culture, November 28 - 29, 2018, Champaign, IL**

The 2018 conference will be comprised of 2-days of interactive workshops and networking opportunities. This year's conference will focus on the critical components needed to foster a culture of continuous learning that will enable organizations to improve performance on an ongoing basis. The target audience is human service professionals, primarily continuous quality staff, but also leadership and direct service staff from community-based, academic and government settings.

- **National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families - Webinar on Creating a Support System for Children in Foster Care, December 4, 2:00-3:30 PM EST**

Join the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families for a new webinar that discusses strategies for supporting foster youth and their caregivers. This webinar will share strategies that practitioners and caregivers can use to build the support systems that children in foster care need to help them develop the critical relationship skills necessary for future stability, healthy decision making, and overall growth. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about free research-based resources and technical training assistance available to support parents and service agencies strengthen families and children! [Register here!](#)

Feedback and Technical Assistance

To learn more about the Resource Center, visit us at 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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