

GROWING Better TOGETHER

We all have a role in preparing children to become healthy, thriving members of our community.

Help all families and children succeed by growing a better tomorrow, together.

The best time to plant seeds is now.

Children and families are our greatest natural resource. Now is the time to create positive childhood experiences that enable families and communities to thrive.

Research shows children who suffer from the repeated stress of abuse and neglect tend to struggle in their behavioral, physical, and cognitive abilities.¹ These early trauma effects often continue through generations.



Across the United States in FY2020²:

3,145,000 CHILDREN

received either a child protective services investigation or alternative response

618,000 CHILDREN

were victims of abuse or neglect

3 out of 4 victims

were neglected

1 out of 6 victims

were physically abused

1 out of 10 victims

were either sexually abused or sex-trafficked

1,750 children

died from abuse and neglect

More specifically, a 2017 study found that **53%** of all Black children experience a child welfare investigation by age 18.

All families are unique and need support sometimes.

Needing support does not equate to weakness.

We can all help by ensuring families have the resources they need, when they need them. We can accomplish this by focusing on positive ways to engage families and deliver economic and concrete supports³ throughout our community.



These include equitable access to:



Food



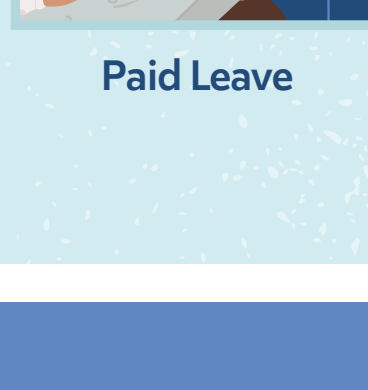
Clothing



Safe Shelter



Medical Care



Paid Leave



Quality Education



Home Visiting Programs



Legal Services/Representation

Policies and services that put families first STRENGTHEN EVERYONE!

Implementing proactive policies and services today are more impactful than addressing consequences after a child grows up.

Working together, we can reduce the burdens parents experience by using evidence-based programs that address community needs.

Voluntary home visiting programs, such as Healthy Families America (HFA), promote positive parenting, enhance child health and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Every **\$1.00 invested** in HFA produces an estimated **\$1.46 in benefits** for families and society.



The following HFA successes reflect these benefits³:



Positive Parenting Practices

- Increased parental confidence
- Increased positive parent-child interactions
- Increased home quality and safety
- Increased positive discipline approaches



Maternal Health

- 70% decrease in pregnancy complications
- Increased mothers' mental health



Child Health

- 48% decrease in low-birth-weight birth rates among moms who enrolled prenatally



Family Violence

- 30–40% decrease in intimate partner violence involvement

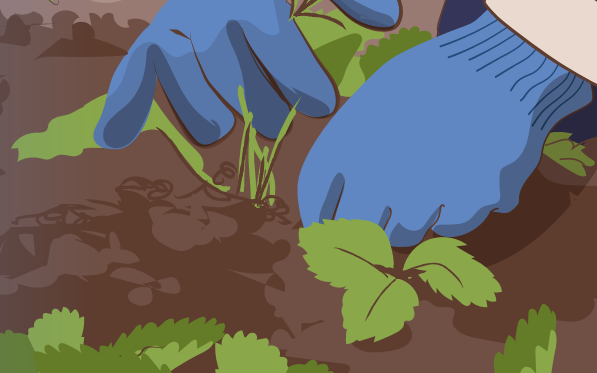


Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Teen moms were 7x more likely to complete at least one year of college
- 32% decrease in homeless reports from young mothers

Inequities and injustices should be called out and corrected.

All children and families thrive when communities focus on addressing root causes that lead to health and social inequities. Creating communities where equity and justice are the norm is possible.



Strategies that promote equitable, healthy environments include⁴:



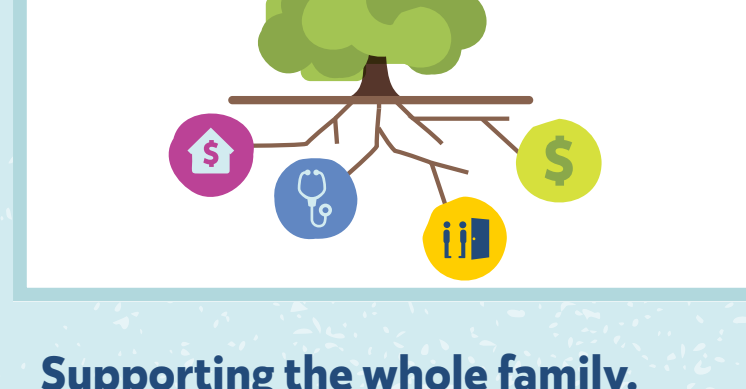
Redressing past injustices.

Dismantle racist and discriminatory policies⁵ that have historically produced disadvantages and disparities for children and families of color.



Meeting the needs of children and families of color.

Families of color must be involved in the design and implementation of solutions that impact their health and well-being.



Supporting the whole family.

Create initiatives—such as paid caregiver and medical leave, home visiting programs, and other economic supports—to support and strengthen the whole family.



Serving all children and families in need through a lens of equity.

Support needs to be equitably allocated to racial and ethnic groups who may need it most.

This approach provides an opportunity for all children in need to thrive, rather than widening the gap between different groups.

Help all families and children thrive.

Children and families can have a thriving and healthy future—in the face of childhood adversity.

We all have a role in preparing children to grow up to be healthy and thriving members of our community.

Better tomorrows can start today:
PreventChildAbuse.org

References

- Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2019). Long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. Available from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long-term-consequences/>.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data-research/child-maltreatment>.
- Healthy Families America. Evidence of Effectiveness. (2021). Available from <https://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/our-impact/evidence-of-effectiveness/>.
- Minoff, Elisa et al. What we owe young children: An anti-racist policy platform for early childhood. (2020). Center for the Study of Social Policy. Available from <https://cssp.org/resource/what-we-owe-young-children/>.
- Racial Equity & Justice: Dismantling Systemic Racism by Transforming Public Systems and Policies. (2022). Center for the Study of Social Policy. Available from <https://cssp.org/our-work/focus/racial-equity/#policy>.