



## FOCUS AREA: STRONG AND RESILIENT FAMILIES RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

**Children thrive when their families have the strength and support they need. We believe that all children deserve a happy, healthy childhood and all families deserve equitable access to resources that address the many complex factors that impact well-being. Family support and positive family relationships are building blocks of health and well-being across the lifespan.**

## STRONG AND RESILIENT FAMILIES - STRATEGIES

The Strong and Resilient Families Focus Area seeks to ensure all children, youth and families have strong foundations and equitable access to opportunities. We support efforts that focus on engaging families, organizations and communities to identify and strengthen families' protective factors and promote family-centered mental and behavioral health. In the Strong and Resilient Families Focus Area, we will support two responsive grantmaking strategies:

- **Strengthening Protective Factors**
- **Promoting Family-Centered Mental and Behavioral Health**

### Strengthening Protective Factors

Protective characteristics of individuals, families and communities promote health and well-being, mitigate risk, and make up the strengths that help to buffer stress and support families in the presence of destabilizing factors. We use the [Strengthening Families framework](#) in our work to strengthen protective factors through family leadership, supportive parenting and family support services. We recognize the importance of valuing and affirming family voice and making programs and services available in the settings where families live, learn, work and play in urban, rural and frontier communities.

Systems are not structured to serve all families equitably, and we direct resources to communities and families experiencing the greatest challenges to health and well-being. We support organizations that center equity and provide culturally affirming programs and services.

We seek to fund:

**Family Leadership:** Programs that ensure family voice and engagement are incorporated into community and organizational decision-making, such as family leadership programs and family-led councils, boards and advisories.

**Supportive Parenting:** Culturally affirming programs and services to promote positive, responsive parenting practices throughout the lifespan, including parenting classes and peer support programs.

**Family Support Services:** Organizations and programs working with families to access a broad array of services, including navigating available benefits; legal and case management services; programs that intervene, prevent and respond to family violence; and community-based services that promote the well-being of children and families.

### Promoting Family-Centered Mental and Behavioral Health

Promoting the mental and behavioral health of parents and caregivers improves families' abilities to provide safe, stable and responsive relationships with children. Families experiencing mental health and substance use concerns can be supported in their communities with access to trauma-informed and family-centered treatment, crisis intervention and support for those experiencing interpersonal violence.

We promote the mental and behavioral health of families by supporting access to community-based programs and providing resources for planning and capacity building. A range of trauma-informed and community-based outpatient, intensive and in-home supports are essential for families experiencing mental and behavioral health concerns. We prioritize prevention, early intervention and services for families within organizations that affirm and strengthen families' cultural and linguistic identities. Services and supports are most effective when they are accessible in the settings where families live, learn, work and play in urban, rural and frontier communities.

Systems are not structured to serve all families equitably, and we direct resources to communities and families experiencing the greatest challenges to health and well-being. We support organizations that center equity, recognize the complex factors impacting mental health, provide culturally affirming programs and services, and celebrate the diverse makeup of families.

We seek to fund:

**Access to Community-Based Programs:** Community-based programs within organizations providing mental and behavioral health treatment and supports that center the family, including clinic-based treatment, peer support programs and in-home services.

**Planning and Capacity Building:** Planning and capacity building for organizations seeking to develop or enhance family-centered mental and behavioral health treatment and supports.