What is a Family Resource Center?

A community or school-based welcoming hub of support and services for families that:

- Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests
- Provides support for families at no or low cost for participants

What are the goals of a FRC?

- To support families to be strong, healthy, and successful.
- To contribute to building a strong and healthy community.
- To reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by building the research-based Strengthening Families Protective Factors. [1]

FRCs work with families with an approach that is:

- Multi-generational
- Strengths-based
- Family-centered

What do Family Resource Centers do?

- Enhance parenting skills
- Foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase school readiness
- Connect families to resources
- Develop parent and community leadership
- Engage males and fathers
- Support healthy marital and couples relationships
- Promote family economic success

What programs do Family Resource Centers most commonly offer? [2]

- Parenting Support
- Access to Resources
- Child Development Activities
- Parent Leadership Development

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What outcomes do FRCs achieve?

- $4.93 Social Return on Investment for every dollar invested [3]
- $210,000 saved per family on preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences [4]

- Significantly lower rates of community-level child abuse investigations [5]
- 65% reduced rate of substantiated child abuse cases [6]
- 73% reduction in the number of children in foster care [7]

- Improvments in children's educational success [8]
- Gains in family self-sufficiency [9]

What locations have invested in FRCs being available for all families?

Kentucky
856 school-based Family Resource Centers

New Jersey
57 Family Success Centers across all of its 21 counties

Vermont
15 Parent Child Centers, one in each service area

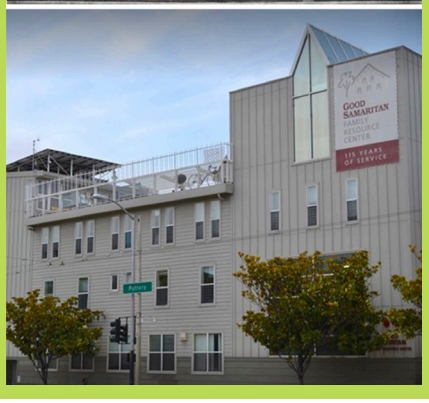
Allegheny County, PA
28 Family Support Centers

San Francisco, CA
25 Family Resource Centers

Did you know?

- Although there is no dedicated federal funding for Family Resource Centers, there are more than 3,000 of them nationwide in 29 states and the District of Columbia.
- The heritage of Family Resource Centers in the U.S. goes back to the establishment of Settlement Houses in the late 1800s to support new immigrants to succeed.

Good Samaritan Settlement House
San Francisco, CA
1913



Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
today

Sources:
[1] Center for the Study of Social Policy. (2005). Strengthening Families: A Protective Factors Framework.
[2] OMNI Institute. (2016). Advancing the Family Support & Strengthening Field Project Survey Results.
[3] Community Services Analysis LLC. (2014). Social Return on Investment Study
[4] Vermont Parent Child Center Network. (2010).
[5] Chapin Hall. (2018). Do Family Support Centers Reduce Maltreatment Investigations? Evidence from Allegheny County.
[6 & 7] Webster, D. et al (2019). CCWIP reports. University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project.
[8] Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Services Centers.
[9] Family Resource Center Association (CO) and Maryland Family Network.

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