



STRENGTHENING INDIANA FAMILIES

October 2019 — September 2024

Our Vision

Strong and caring communities throughout Indiana where families have equitable access to the resources they need to be connected and safe.

Program Description

- Strengthening Indiana Families (SIF) is a five-year project primarily funded by the federal Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, through its [Community Collaborations initiative](#).
- SIF is one of thirteen sites across the country funded by the Children’s Bureau to design, implement and evaluate strategies for the primary prevention of child maltreatment
- SIF focuses on the implementation and evaluation of a continuum of community-based services and supports designed to improve the safety and well-being of families in four counties Indiana, including Delaware, Grant, Madison and Tipton Counties.
- Intended to prevent formal entry of children into foster care, SIF is being carried out in collaboration with a number of community partners including the Indiana Department of Child Services, Indiana State Department of Health, Children’s Bureau, Inc. (implementing partner), Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, CASA, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana, Indiana Library Federation, Corporation for Supportive Housing, courts, and local municipalities and agencies. Families and youth with experience in the foster care system are integral to SIF’s design and implementation.

Strengthening Indiana Families (SIF) has 3 areas of activities		
1. Development and operation of family resource centers	2. Public awareness campaigns <i>(Kids don't come with instructions. We are here to help)</i>	3. Increased cross-system collaboration in support of child maltreatment prevention

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[Strengthening Indiana Families Website](#)

Our Strategies

Family Resource Centers

- SIF partners will pilot four family resource centers, located in target counties.
- Will be located in places where families already go (e.g., libraries, recreation centers, schools, etc.)
- Staffed by members of the community with operational support from SIF partners (Children’s Bureau, Inc.)
- Designed to provide easy access to a range of services and supports
- Multiple providers and community partners will offer services and supports at the family resource centers (e.g., tutoring programs, notary services, parent training, tax preparation, etc.)
- Eligibility criteria for supports and services will be as broad as funding allows

Public Awareness Campaigns

- Public awareness campaigns will use traditional advertising (e.g., social media) as well as the use of family fun events to bring the community together and let families know about resource centers in their neighborhood
- A campaign will be organized around the theme of “Kids Don’t Come with Instructions. We are here to help” in an effort to normalize the need for parenting supports and parenting skills training at various developmental stages

Cross-Systems Collaboration

- SIF steering committee members will enhance cross-system collaboration to advance primary prevention of child maltreatment
- Evaluate current alignment of resources to identify duplication of services
- Explore ways to align funding and services in support of grant activities and according to family needs

Key Partners

- Indiana University School of Social Work
- Children’s Bureau, Inc.
- Indiana Department of Child Services
- Indiana Department of Health
- Prevent Child Abuse Indiana
- Commission on Improving the Status of Children
- Indiana Family and Social Service Administration
- Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence
- Foster care alumni
- Parents with lived experience
- Legal community: Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Indiana Prosecuting Attorney’s Council, Indiana State office of GAL/CASA, Indiana Department of Corrections
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
- Indiana Library Federation
- IU Health
- Local municipalities and agencies, public schools, parks and recreation, behavioral health, and more

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