

Facilitator Checklist of Tasks for Community Planning Grantees

Facilitators can use this checklist to ensure community planning grantees are following the tasks outlined in the Colorado Child Maltreatment Prevention Framework for Action Toolkit available at <http://co4kids.org/community-planning>.

- ✓ The core team will pull together a leadership group that is multi-disciplinary and has some new partners including mandatory participation from county human services, county public health, parent leaders, and workforce development/business community (*Task 1.1*).
 - Parents are engaged at the planning level and parent feedback is secured through surveys, focus groups, or community cafés.
- ✓ The leadership team will meet at least three times to reflect on, discuss, and make decisions about the following:
 - Identify needs and strengths of families in the community based on data trends[#] (*Task 1.2: Develop Community Profile*) and the existing service array[#] *Communities must engage in conversations about the mix of available services if existing assessments/data profiles are utilized (Task 1.4: Catalogue Local Services)*.
 - Identify needs and strengths of the community based on input from parents[#] with additional consideration to informal supports (*Task 1.3: Secure Parent Input*).
 - Prioritize a focus area for prevention* based on the discussion of 1) and 2) (*Task 2.1: Set Your Priorities*). Examples of a focus area for prevention: subpopulation (immigrant population, fathers), type of maltreatment (sexual abuse), geographic area (zip code, neighborhoods).
 - Select child maltreatment prevention strategies at each channel for change level[#] from the Framework that will improve the focus area (*Task 2.1: Set Your Priorities*). These can be some of the example strategies listed or can be other strategies. Communities must include strategies at all four channels. See pages 3-4 for a summary of the channels for change with examples of each.
 - Identify which shared outcomes[#] from the Framework will be impacted by each strategy (*Task 2.1: Set Your Priorities*). Communities are not required to address all four overarching outcomes. However, for each outcome selected, they need to pick some of the indicators identified in the Framework. Communities may also add some indicators that they choose. Note: for each indicator on the Framework a state data source has already been identified to create a common dashboard.
 - Explain how the foundational principles are embedded in the implementation of the chosen strategies⁽⁺⁾ (*Task 2.1: Set Your Priorities*).
 - Select activities[#] to implement strategies. Ask group to review and reflect on the draft work plan⁽⁺⁾ (*Task 2.2: Outline Your Implementation Plan*).

[#] These items will likely be the focus of the facilitated community planning meetings

* Defined as prevention before any child maltreatment ever occurs in the first place

⁽⁺⁾ These items could be done by email or in another meeting (webinar)

- ✓ Between the meetings, the coordinator/lead staff will ensure:
 - Communication happens with the facilitator and among the leadership/core team members.
 - Information is shared with leadership team members including data profiles, list of available resources, and results of parent feedback activities.
 - Parent survey, focus group, or community café are completed in a neutral manner.
 - Community action planning template is completed (with help from the facilitator and based on the leadership team discussions) and shared with the leadership team.
 - His/her full participation in the learning community and TA opportunities, and his/her full participation in process evaluation activities.

Channels for Change Overview

Prevention efforts are increasingly designed to not only avoid the most negative outcomes for children but also to ensure that each child achieves his or her full potential. The multiple factors that contribute to an elevated risk of child abuse or neglect and support healthy development underscore the reality that no single intervention, no matter how well researched, can provide parents the support they need to successfully meet their children's physical, cognitive and emotional needs. Equally true is the fact that more individual services operating in isolation of each other will not offer a pathway to success. States and local communities will need to address both the quality and availability of high quality, evidence-based programs and ensure that such services are housed within an organizational, community and policy context that can maximize their collective potential.

1. Individualized Services

Prevention strategies have expanded to address the complex causes which contribute to child maltreatment and strengthen protective factors. These protective factors include nurturing family attachment, building knowledge of parenting and child development, encouraging parental emotional resilience, boosting parental social connections, and providing concrete supports. Examples of program types which include one or several evidence-based models that build these protective factors include home visiting, parent education, parent treatment, school-based programs, legal partnership, medical partnership, and two generation programs. It is also important that program staff are trained to view parents as equal partners in decision making. While no single program or intervention will lead to positive outcomes for all families, across a wide range of programs tailored interventions that meet specific family needs and are culturally relevant are more successful.

Example: The Period of Purple Crying is a program designed to help parents of new babies understand a developmental stage that is not widely understood by providing parents with valuable information on the normal crying curve and the dangers of shaking a baby.

2. Organizational and Practice Change

Creating a context and culture supportive of high quality practice and innovation is as important for growing strong prevention programs as strong communities are for growing healthy families and children. Most prevention programs are housed within public agencies or community based organizations that can either support or complicate the service delivery process. In addition to ensuring that individual programs are robust and successful, research and innovative efforts are demonstrating ways in which organizational culture, the process of participant assessment, and methods of responding to needs can enhance program outcomes and streamline service delivery. The reach and effectiveness of evidence-based prevention services targeting parents, children and families can be expanded by investing in efforts to make organizational culture and standard professional practice more hospitable to these programs.

Example: Workforce training in organizations that provide services to families of young children can help strengthen families. Professionals can be trained in The Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. The Standards are designed to be used across different kinds of Family Strengthening Support programs (e.g., Family Resource Centers, home-visiting and child development programs, etc.) as a tool for planning and assessing quality practice.

3. Agency Collaboration and Community Capacity Building

While changing organizational culture and professional practice can result in more effective programs and practices, encouraging service collaboration and community efficacy further ensures that more children, youth, and families can be reached, monitored, and supported with services that meet their needs. Research supports the growing trend towards integrated systems of care, information exchange, and knowledge transfer between

agencies. Utilizing technology, states and local communities can enhance the delivery of services to families and link databases to better understand the experiences of the families they serve. This information is also useful for identifying and understanding the factors that result in neighborhoods that exhibit high-risk for child maltreatment. Linked data can help researchers and funders better understand the impact of programs at the community-level and support the implementation of public policies that support neighborhoods where families and children can thrive. In addition, changing social norms that accept or allow indifference to violence is important to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. There are a number of norms that relate to child development and child safety, including norms for safe sleep, breastfeeding, child passenger safety, talking to young children, and shared responsibility for children. Beyond individual services and organizations, prevention efforts will be strengthened when they work in collaboration with each other at both the state and community level.

Example: There are many efforts that bring cross-system collaboration to improve coordination and service delivery such as CO9to25. CO9to25 is a collective group of Colorado youth and adults working in partnership to align efforts to achieve positive outcomes for all youth.

4. Policy Reforms

Public policy reforms to advance the prevention mission are found in many domains. In addition to the child welfare system, public welfare, public health, and early education policies offer important opportunities to increase the quality and availability of basic supports to children living in impoverished, low resourced, or violent communities. Policy makers have to allocate a finite number of resources and anticipate that their policies produce the intended outcomes. Program staff, researchers, and representatives from state agencies can influence policy and agenda setting and encourage the development of policies which offer the greatest potential to produce positive outcomes for children and their families. While poverty is not the sole predictor of child maltreatment, ensuring children and their families have access to high quality health care, nutrition, housing, safety and early education opportunities creates a strong foundation for optimal child development and reduced parental stress. Being knowledgeable of research findings related to various policy dilemmas and using these findings to shape decisions can improve the likelihood that public investments will achieve the desired ends.

Example: Advocating for the universal assessment of all new parents for parental depression or family-friendly employment policies (e.g., livable wages, paid leave, flexible and consistent schedules, etc.) change the context for families by improving the balance between work and family while ensuring economic security.

Source:

Karter, C., & Daro, D. (2016). *Planning to Prevent Child Maltreatment: Strategies to Support an Integrated Child Maltreatment Prevention Framework*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.