

What is a Family Resource Center?¹

A welcoming hub of supports, services, and opportunities to ensure families thrive.

Key characteristics:

- Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests
- Designed as a place that families feel comfortable to access without stigma or judgement
- Typically coordinated by a non-governmental organization or school
- Utilizes a family-centered, multi-generational, strengths-based, community development approach
- Provides services at no or low cost for participants
- Builds communities of peer support for families to connect with each other



FRCs co-locate multiple services and supports in one convenient setting

What do FRCs do?

- Foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families
- Engage multiple family members important in children's lives, such as mothers, fathers, grandparents, relatives, and other caregivers
- Enhance parenting skills
- Connect families to resources
- Reduce parental isolation and stress
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase school readiness
- Support healthy marital and couples relationships
- Promote family economic success
- Develop parent and community leadership

Who are FRCs designed for?

- The general population within urban, suburban, or rural areas
- Specific populations, such as families who are indigenous, refugees, immigrants, teen parents, or have children with special needs



What outcomes do FRCs achieve?



- US\$4.93 Social Return on Investment for every dollar invested²
- US\$3.65 savings for the child protection system for every dollar invested³



- 63% reduction of child maltreatment cases⁴
- 50% reduction of child removal⁵
- 26% lower rates of community-level child maltreatment investigations⁶



- Gains in economic self sufficiency, health, social support, family functioning and resiliency, and caregiver-child nurturing and attachment⁷
- Increased educational achievement of children, with benefits lasting at least until age 16⁸



Why are FRCs a good investment?

- Low cost
- Readily replicated
- Highly adaptable for various communities
- Demonstrated successful outcomes
- Popular with families

RESOURCES



¹ Family Resource Centers are known by different names, including Family Centers, Family Resource Programs, Family Success Centers, Family Support Centers, and Parent Child Centers.

² Community Services Analysis LLC. (2014). Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers: Social return on investment analysis.

³ OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Westminster Family Resource Center, Orange County, CA.

⁴ OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Community Partnership Family Resource Center, Teller County, CO.

⁵ Colorado State University Social Work Research Center (2018). Colorado Community Response Evaluation Findings 2014-2018.

⁶ Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (2018). Do Family Support Centers Reduce Maltreatment Investigations? Evidence from Allegheny County.

⁷ OMNI Institute (2019). Family Pathways & CFSA 2.0 Evaluation Report

⁸ Institute for Fiscal Studies (2024). The short- and medium-term impacts of Sure Start on educational outcomes.



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