

## strengthening families leadership summit

### CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN CHALLENGING TIMES

**Dates:** October 28-29, 2009

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In May, 2007, 300 allies for Strengthening Families came together in San Diego, California for the first Strengthening Families Leadership Summit, sharing enthusiasm and innovative ideas that have developed into a vast, vibrant, and varied approach to preventing abuse and neglect, promoting optimal child development, and supporting families. This October, it's time to come together again – to celebrate success, wrestle with tough questions, think about emerging opportunities, and support one another in the work ahead. In these challenging times, gathering to share experiences and innovations is especially important.

The Leadership Summit is designed to foster relationships, to disseminate new knowledge about Strengthening Families, and to generate innovative ideas about building Protective Factors with children and families. A few fundamental principles guide the design of the Summit:

- This is not a typical conference. The Strengthening Families Leadership Summit is about learning and innovating through generative discussions.
- Parents are necessary partners at all levels of planning and in all Summit activities.
- Everyone attending the Summit is a leader in strengthening families – whether they know it or not.
- Everyone at the Summit is an expert, with much to offer and much to learn.

### RESULTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Strengthening Families Leadership Summit has four results for all participants: creating and building upon:

- Opportunity
- Information
- Inspiration
- Momentum

Participants will get the newest information about innovations in Strengthening Families and generate ideas to advance this work in communities, states, and around the country. They will leave the Summit with electronic copies of all materials that have been shared, as well as valuable relationships with peers across the country. Tools and information shared at the Summit will be useful in early care and education settings, family support programs, child welfare agencies, community-building efforts, and policymaking arenas.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Participants who are new to Strengthening Families will have the opportunity to learn the basics of the approach, and those who are familiar with the approach will have the chance to deepen their knowledge through dialogue with their peers. All attendees will share their own expertise to advance collective knowledge about Strengthening Families.

Attendees at the Strengthening Families Leadership Summit participate as part of multidisciplinary state teams. These teams include professionals from across child- and family-serving sectors, parent representatives, policymakers, and others working to create an optimal environment for children and families in the state. Past attendees have included ECCS coordinators, CB-CAP leads, early care and education providers, and many others from a variety of child- and family-serving fields, as well as parent leaders. Whether these teams are already assembled – in some states, Strengthening Families Leadership Teams are already established – or are coming together for the first time at the Summit, their time in Atlanta will prepare them to continue working as collaborative groups when they return to their home states.

### REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION

Registration for the Strengthening Families Leadership Summit will open in mid-June and will remain open until September 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Early-Bird Registration (through August 21<sup>st</sup>): \$250
- Regular Registration: \$300

We encourage state teams to coordinate with one another as much as possible before traveling to Atlanta. Preparing for the Summit as a team will ensure that attendees get the most out of their participation. When possible and appropriate, we will keep attendees informed about others from their state who have registered in the months leading up to the Summit.

Before coming to the Summit, teams will get a toolkit to use to tell their state's story about Strengthening Families. Teams will be asked to come together and talk about how their work has evolved, then create a poster that maps their history. At the Summit, participants will share their maps with their peers and add to their own stories using information and ideas they get in Atlanta. When they return to their home states, they will have developed a plan for action to move their initiative to the next level.

### REMOTE PARTICIPATION

While there is no substitute for the face-to-face connections built at the Summit, those who cannot attend in person will still have opportunities to share in the events taking place. Using the Summit website and blog, following @Strengthening\_Families on Twitter, and receiving special Strengthening Families text messages, they will be able to get materials, read about what's going on, and add their ideas and reactions.