



Putting Ideas Into Action - Knowledge Application Series



OVERVIEW

AUGUST 2021



Advancing the capacity of family treatment court teams to provide a comprehensive family-centered approach that improves child, parent, and family outcomes

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About the Prevention and Family Recovery Initiative

The Prevention and Family Recovery (PFR) initiative sought to advance the capacity of family treatment court (FTC) teams¹ to implement and sustain a comprehensive family-centered approach for children, parents, and families affected by substance use disorders and child abuse and neglect.

With support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Duke Endowment, Children and Family Futures (CFF) worked intensively with eight diverse FTCs² to integrate and institutionalize evidence-based parenting and children's services into their larger FTC systems of care.

PRIMARY PFR GOALS

- ▶ **Expand the service array** for families involved with FTCs
- ▶ **Improve the capacity** of FTC teams to provide comprehensive family-centered care and facilitate larger systems improvements to better serve families
- ▶ **Evaluate the progress, challenges, and outcomes** associated with a comprehensive family-centered approach
- ▶ **Identify breakthrough strategies** for effective program and practice implementation
- ▶ **Disseminate lessons learned** to other jurisdictions and the larger field of prevention, early intervention, and treatment for families involved with FTCs

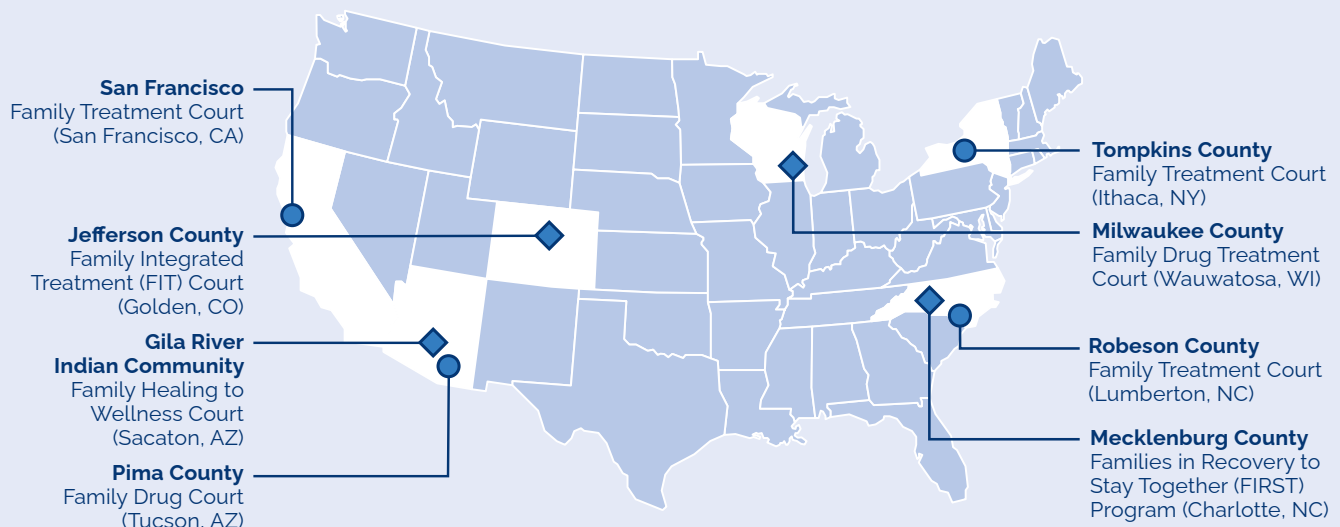


¹ The term "FTC team" refers to the larger collaborative that includes FTC professionals and partner agency staff.

² The local name for each grantee's program differs. For ease of reading, this PFR series uses the term family treatment court (FTC) to refer to all the grantees. For more information about the grantees and the PFR initiative, visit the [PFR home page](#).

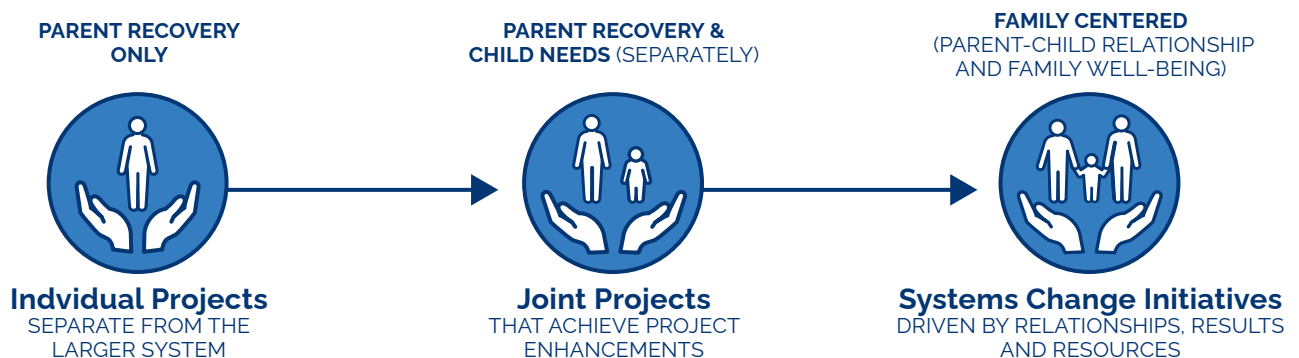
PFR GRANTEES

● PFR ROUND 1 GRANTEES (APRIL 1, 2014 – MAY 31, 2017) ◆ PFR ROUND 2 GRANTEES (JANUARY 1, 2017 – DECEMBER 31, 2019)



The mission of the PFR initiative was to implement broader, sustainable systems improvements. The objective was to transform the way FTCs and their cross-systems partners decide on policies and programs; allocate resources; and ultimately, how they problem-solve to better serve, support, and improve outcomes for all families affected by parental substance use disorders. Systems change efforts are not linear, predictable, or controllable. They can take many years to achieve the desired accomplishments

because partners must evolve and adapt to changing environments and unanticipated contextual events. All PFR grantees learned that the shift to a family-centered approach is undeniably a long-term, developmental effort that must be firmly grounded in a shared mission and vision. The grantees continue to build on what they achieved during the PFR initiative to strengthen their capacity to shift mindsets and actions to elevate a family-centered approach in their communities.



Early Lessons Dissemination – PFR Round 1

In 2017, CFF produced a series of [five PFR briefs](#) that detailed cross-cutting lessons and experiences from the first round of four grantees. CFF designed this series to help the field replicate effective FTC practices. A companion set of individual [case studies](#) told a more in-depth story of each grantee's PFR journey. The initial series of PFR briefs included:

- ▶ **Brief 1:** Overview of the Prevention and Family Recovery Initiative
- ▶ **Brief 2:** Key Lessons for Implementing a Family-Centered Approach
- ▶ **Brief 3:** Cross-Systems Collaboration, Governance, and Leadership: The FDC³ Trifecta for Systems Change
- ▶ **Brief 4:** Evidence-Based Program Implementation within the FDC Context: Finding the Right Fit
- ▶ **Brief 5:** Building the Evaluation and Performance Monitoring Capacity of FDCs

Building the Knowledge Base – PFR Round 2

The nine key lessons documented in the 2017 [PFR Brief 2](#) are a useful framework to organize the second round of PFR grantees' experiences and insights. Several recurring

themes remained evident during round 2. One is that the foundation of any major systems change effort is built on relationships and “moves at the speed of trust.”⁴ However, important new nuances also emerged that increase the field's understanding on how to successfully implement an effective family-centered approach. Most fundamentally, both families and peer supports are indispensable partners in achieving a family-centered approach.

This latest *Knowledge Application Series* highlights information on the round 2 grantees' progress and challenges. It also provides strategies for other FTC teams and stakeholders involved in designing, implementing, sustaining, and evaluating systems change initiatives that advance a family-centered approach.

The series begins with [Advancing a Family-Centered Approach: Lessons from the Prevention and Family Recovery Initiative](#), which updates the original nine PFR lessons published in 2017. The nine lessons are interconnected. For example, effective cross-systems collaboration (covered in Lesson 1) is essential to effectively implement an evidence-based program (Lesson 5) and to shift to a family-centered approach (Lesson 7).

FTC teams and stakeholders should approach the lessons as a complete package, but they can also view each lesson individually to focus on a specific topic. The updated lessons, in both forms, can be accessed [here](#).

3 Note that family drug court (FDC) was the terminology used in the field during the first round of PFR grants. By the second round of grants, the field shifted into more family-centered thinking and began referring to the courts as family treatment courts.

4 “Change moves at the speed of trust” is a popular adage coined by Stephen M.R. Covey in his 2006 book, *Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything*.



Nine Key Lessons for an Effective Family-Centered Approach

LESSON 1:

Increased, renewed, and continued focus on **Cross-Systems Collaboration** is needed to achieve and sustain systems change

LESSON 2:

The effectiveness of parenting and children's services is integrally linked to **Timely and Effective Substance Use Disorder Treatment**

LESSON 3:

A **Formal Governance Structure** is necessary to prioritize, oversee, and sustain the FTC

LESSON 4:

FTC teams need to maintain a consistent and strong focus on **FTC Participant Recruitment, Timely Engagement, and Retention**

LESSON 5:

Developing the **Evidence-Based Program Capacity** of sites is a complex undertaking

LESSON 6:

FTC teams need to **Build Bridges to Connect Families** to services and service providers to each other

LESSON 7:

Integrating a **Truly Family-Centered Approach** requires several paradigm shifts

LESSON 8:

Building Data Capacity to advance a family-centered approach involves moving beyond just numbers

LESSON 9:

Achieving larger systems change requires understanding and adapting to the changing **Contextual Environment**

The PFR grantees' experiences also illuminated a need to delve deeper and provide additional practical, hands-on guidance in two specific areas: (1) implementing a family-centered approach and (2) building a site's performance monitoring and evaluation capacity. The series thus includes two companion resources:

- [*Guiding Principles for Establishing a Family-Centered Approach in Family Treatment Courts and Beyond*](#) expands on Lesson 7 to

discuss in more detail what a family-centered approach looks and feels like and how FTC teams can assess and build their family-centered capacity.

- [*Data Capacity: What Is It and Does Our Family Treatment Court Have It?*](#) elaborates on Lesson 8, describing how FTC teams can assess their cross-systems data capacity, use their data to improve their programs, and communicate their successes to various audiences.

CFF hopes the overall knowledge base gained from the PFR initiative will:

- ▶ Inform other FTC teams and stakeholders seeking to institutionalize best practices and systems improvements for all families in the child welfare system affected by parental substance use disorders.
- ▶ Provide continued guidance and examples of how jurisdictions can improve their program, practices, and policies.
- ▶ Assist teams in transforming their FTCs from an individual program focused largely on parental recovery to an integrated system of care dedicated to improving outcomes for the whole family and for all families who need these services.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Children and Family Futures (CFF) appreciates the second round of Prevention and Family Recovery (PFR) grantees for their tremendous effort, perseverance, and partnership throughout the PFR initiative. The willingness of the four grantees to share their successes and challenges has contributed greatly to the expanded knowledge base about effective family-centered practices. Their insights will help guide other jurisdictions striving to improve their program, practices, and policies to better serve all families in the child welfare system affected by parental substance use disorders.

The PFR initiative and the development of this *Knowledge Application Series* would not have been possible without the generous support and commitment of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Duke Endowment. Their recognition of the difficult, time-intensive, and unpredictable nature of systems change work, coupled with their leadership and forward-thinking, adaptive funding approach provided a supportive environment for the grantees to succeed. Finally, CFF is grateful to the PFR National Advisory Council, whose expertise, dedication, and assistance were invaluable in guiding the work of the PFR initiative and the round 2 grantees.



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The Prevention and Family Recovery (PFR) initiative was generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Duke Endowment.

For more information about the PFR initiative, visit the [PFR home page](#) or email Children and Family Futures at contact@cffutures.org.

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Children and Family Futures

Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

Children and Family Futures (CFF) is a national nonprofit organization based in Lake Forest, California that focuses on the intersections among child welfare, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and court systems. CFF has over two decades of experience in practice, policy, and evaluation arenas to support tribes, states, regions, and communities in their efforts to improve outcomes for children and families. We believe parents with mental health and substance use disorders should maintain hope of achieving recovery and family stability so they can care for their children. While no single system or agency working by itself can help parents achieve that goal, we recognize that recovery happens within the context of the family and that professionals from a variety of agencies and systems must work together to meet the needs of families.

Children and Family Futures provides a full range of consulting, technical assistance, strategic planning, and evaluation services for substance use disorder treatment, child welfare, courts, and the communities they serve. To learn more about CFF, visit www.cffutures.org.

The mission of Children and Family Futures is to prevent child abuse and neglect while improving safety, permanency, well-being, and recovery outcomes with equity for all children, parents, and families affected by trauma, substance use, and mental disorders.



The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation,

child well-being, and medical research, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. The mission of the foundation's Child Well-being Program is to promote children's healthy development and protect them from abuse and neglect. To that end, DDCF takes a funding approach that centers on intergenerational work that bolsters culturally, geographically, and locally relevant programs with and for communities to foster the long-term well-being of families. To learn more, visit www.ddcf.org.

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds, and enriching spirits. Since its founding, The Duke Endowment has distributed more than \$4 billion in grants. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations. To learn more about the Endowment, visit www.dukeendowment.org.