



CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES

Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

Children and Family Futures (CFF) carries out its mission based on beliefs and principles that support our work.

We Believe That:

- Every program and agency serving children, parents and their families should be guided by data-informed decision making; these decisions should include both the strengths and needs of each family member, bring hope of recovery, and a specific focus to improving outcomes in a family-centered approach.
- No one agency or health or social service system has sufficient expertise and resources to meet all the complex needs of children, parents and family members affected by substance use disorders, mental disorders, family violence, and child maltreatment; joint efforts in effective collaboration is required at each level of service delivery.
- In our efforts to support agencies and organizations with training and technical assistance, the issues of clients' disproportionate inclusion and disparity in access to services and outcomes guides our work to implement changes in practice and policy to respond more fully to these issues.
- Greater emphasis is needed in our work and across the fields in which we provide technical assistance on the strong evidence that race, income, disabilities, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and other characteristics of children, parents and their families can be associated with bias and stigma that affect access to effective services and can have negative effects on families and communities.
- Agencies and collaborative partnerships should consistently focus on the scale of programs in the context of the greater needs in the community by collecting, reviewing, and responding to vital information about the total number of clients who need services to prevent and treat substance use and mental disorders and child maltreatment.
- Voices of children, youth, parents, connected kin, and life-experienced staff should be part of program design, operations, and evaluation of effectiveness and in efforts to ensure greater emphasis on communities' and parents' assets and strengths as well as their needs.
- Family services and supports should include, wherever possible, staff and volunteers who have lived experience and awareness of how different groups are affected by stigma, disproportionate inclusion, and disparities in access to services and outcomes.

Embedding these principles in the work of CFF includes embracing the Twelfth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous...*to carry this message and practice these principles in all our affairs.*