Strengthening Arizona Families:

Creating a Statewide System of Family Support

When families get what they need, when they need it, we prevent crises that lead to costly intervention, and we promote safe, stable environments for children.

Arizona has resources for families – but they're hard to find. Families – and even the providers that work with families - struggle to find what's available to meet their needs.

We must create a system in which **all Arizona families** have a **trusted place to go to find what they need** to keep their family safe, stable, and strong. To do this, we are designing a **hub-and-spoke system** in which **Family Resource Centers** serve as a hub to connect families to available resources and opportunities in their communities.

What are Family Resource Centers (FRCs)?

FRCs are hubs of support and connection that:

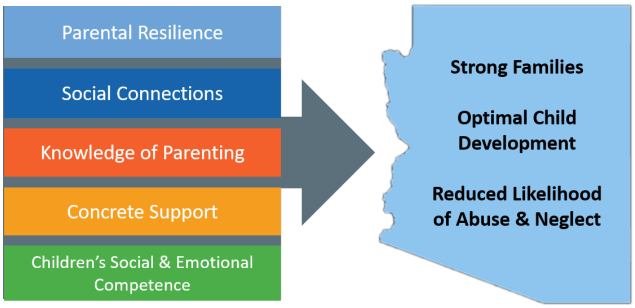
- Connect families to **available resources**
- Create opportunities for **families to connect to other families**
- Provide **parenting education and support**

Why focus on FRCs?

- FRCs are hubs - they simplify and personalize resource navigation
- FRCs are responsive to the needs of families in their unique community
- FRCs are universal – because every family needs support sometimes

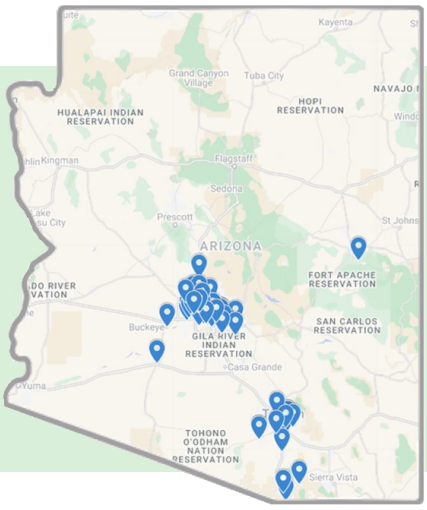
According to studies conducted in other states, FRCs have produced:

- ***$4.93 social return on investment***[1] *for every dollar invested*
- ***$3.65 saved***[2] *for the child welfare system for every dollar invested*
- ***63% reduction***[3] *in* ***child abuse cases***



FRCs are designed to build the five **Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors**—assets that keep families strong, promote optimal child development, and prevent abuse and neglect. These five factors are:

1. **Parent Resilience**
2. **Social Connections**
3. **Knowledge of Parenting**
4. **Concrete Support**
5. **Children's Social & Emotional Skills**



The Current Landscape of FRCs

There are 67 known FRCs in Arizona, mostly concentrated in urban areas. Eleven of Arizona's fifteen counties lack an FRC. First Things First, Arizona's early childhood state agency, invests $9M in 48 FRCs. The FRCs that are funded mostly by – or exclusively by – First Things First, are often limited to serving families with children age five and under.

Priorities

In order to create a statewide family support system, our priorities are to **expand existing FRCs to serve families with children of all ages (0-17)**, and to **create FRCs in all Arizona counties**. We are also creating a website to connect families and providers to their most local FRC.

Needs

Funding to pilot the expansion of FRCs to serve families with children of all ages, and to seed the creation of FRCs in rural counties that lack them.

[1] Community Services Analysis LLC. (2014). Social Return on Investment Study.
[2] OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Westminster Family Resource Center, Orange County, CA.
[3] OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System: Community Partnership Family Resource Center, Teller County, CO

Prevent Child Abuse Arizona