

strengthening families

G E O R G I A

SFG 10th Anniversary History

The Strengthening Families Protective Factors are Embedded in Key Georgia Initiatives:

GA Department of Early Care and Learning - Quality Rated Program, Pre-K and Head Start
GA Department of Education – 360° Standards and Family Engagement Conference
Child Welfare - DFCS Roundtables
Youth Thrive - Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC) and DFCS's
Independent Living Program (ILP)
Child Abuse Prevention – Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
Home Visiting Competencies and Institutes
GA Department of Public Health - Project Launch
UGA Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education
United Way of Greater Atlanta – Human Resources National Website, Parent Leadership and
Neighborhood Initiatives
Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness
Family Connection Partnership through Parent Cafes
Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers
Georgia Essentials for Childhood
Georgia Association on Young Children
and many more!

2001 The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) releases Strengthening Families™.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) offers opportunities for **pilot projects**. In Georgia, the University of Georgia Continuing Education Center and Sheltering Arms participate by developing model programs. The Georgia Head Start Collaboration Office introduces the Protective Factors to Georgia Head Start which incorporated the use of Strengthening Families with Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers providing training for Head Start Grantees. By 2006 Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (BFTS/DECAL) had incorporated Strengthening Families into Pre-K as well.

June 2006: Georgia receives a **seed grant** from the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, supported by the Doris Duke Family Foundation, to develop and implement the plan known as *Georgia's Strengthening Families Initiative*.

Early 2007 Kids Count on You (KCOY): Protecting Children by Strengthening Families, a mandated reporter **video-based child abuse training module** was developed by Prevent Child Abuse Georgia for all new child care workers. A KCOY Training of Trainers was held for over 150 state-approved child abuse trainers to use the module.



2007-08 Strengthening Families Georgia [Vision](#), [Mission](#), and Georgia's **first Strategic Plan**. Judy Langford participated in two initial strategic planning meetings held at Sheltering Arms.

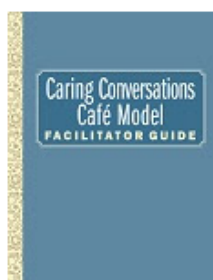
2009 Developed annual state profile [Georgia Profile for the Center of the Study for Social Policy](#) Strengthening Families Protective Factors were embedded in several Georgia initiatives.



2009 Strengthening Families Protective Factors were embedded in nine Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) **SFG hubs** supported by a small grant from the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

October 27, 2009 The **Georgia Family Forum, a statewide Parent Café**, was held at five locations across the state in conjunction with the live Center for the Study of Social Policy's Strengthening Families Summit in Atlanta. A total of 215 individuals participated statewide.

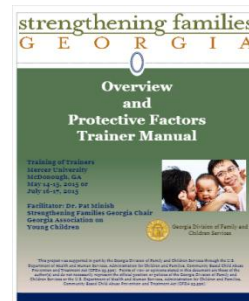
November 2010 The SFG Ad Hoc Work Group invited Illinois experts to Georgia for a **Parent Café Training Institute at Sheltering Arms**. The Institute was attended by 12 teams. Each team conducted a Parent Café and mentored another organization. Twelve teams were trained and continue to provide Parent Cafes.



2010-11 Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers and the Georgia Training Institute offerings included **Strengthening Families and Parent Cafe training**. www.shelteringarmsforkids.com

2011 - 2016 Over **100 Parent Cafes** have been held statewide, many by Family Connection Partnership.

2011 A Strengthening Families Georgia **Overview and 5 Protective Factor 2-hour modules** are developed under the leadership of the Georgia Association on Young Children. From 2011-16 nearly 25,000 individuals have completed one of the modules, through the online course or face-to face by one of the 234 SFG Trainers.



2011 The **first SFG Professional and Parent Newsletters** are developed and distributed annually to nearly 2,000 individuals. <http://strengtheningfamiliesga.net/parents/newsletters/>

2012 The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) **embedded Strengthening Families into child care settings** through use of an online SFG Overview training and a SF Self-Assessment of Programs in their Quality Rated Programs.

2012 The **SFG Evaluation Plan** was developed.

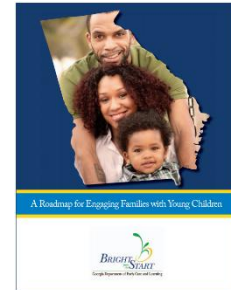
2012 Conducted **Parent Leadership Academy Training (PLAT)** through partnership with the Georgia Department of Education and Sheltering Arms (SFG Partners) for 10 teams who committed to holding a minimum of one additional PLAT per team.

2012- 2014 Strengthening Families Georgia hold its first major community-based initiative over a 2-year period of time in the **Atlanta Promise Neighborhood (APN)** and conducts Strengthening Families Georgia training for child care providers and community leaders.

2013 The **SFGPartner Survey** was piloted via Survey Monkey with three partner organizations and held annually through 2015.

2014 SFG is invited to help **Kentucky Strengthening Families** build their statewide initiative.

2014-15 DECAL convened a **statewide Family Engagement Task Force** of key stakeholders to define Family Engagement and identify next steps for Georgia. Strengthening Families is a key component. "Family engagement is the **shared responsibility** of families, schools, early education programs, and communities to **actively promote, support, and sustain family wellbeing**, healthy child development, strong family-child relationships, and lifelong learning for all children and families." A Roadmap for Engaging Families with Young Children DECAL, 2015. www.decal.ga.gov.



2015 SFG created **Governance, Strategic Planning and Resource Development Committees** to guide SFG's future work. The Evaluation Committee continued to guide SFG evaluation activities.

2016 A second online course is developed by the Georgia Association on Young Children for DECAL, **Connections: The Foundation of Family Engagement**.

2016 Strengthening Families Georgia (SFG) Training of Trainers (TOT) titled **Protective Factors for Parents** is developed to enable parent and or community leaders to facilitate five interactive one-hour trainings to help parents strengthen their resilience, social connections, knowledge of child and social emotional development, make use of community and state resources, and to facilitate Parent Cafes.



**Georgia Division of Family and
Children Services**

Office of Prevention and Family Support

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