

strengthening families

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Strengthening Families Georgia (SFG)

Annual Report/Accomplishments 2017 - 2018 Contract Period

Goal One: Embed the Strengthening Families framework into all systems serving families with young children from the state level to community-based services

Training

- **SFG Overview On-line Training Module**

This online training module, funded by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) via a contract with the Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children (GAEYC), went live on October 1, 2012. In 2014 the SFG Overview was translated into Spanish and made available online. Total number of DECAL Quality Rated center staff trained for this contract period (**English/Spanish**):

➤ October – December 2017	648/2
➤ January – March 2018	2036/11
➤ April – June 2018	1773/9
➤ July – September 2018	2060/15

TOTAL **6554** (6044 trained in 2016-17)

- **SFG Overview and Protective Factor Training - Face to Face**

The SFG Train the Trainer (TOT) course was developed by SFG in September 2011 and is offered to independent trainers and trainers from a variety of child and family serving organizations. The TOT was developed based on the SFG Overview and five protective factor modules developed during the 2010-11 grant year. These courses are approved by the DECAL Training Approval System until 2021. Total number trained this contract period:

➤ October – December 2017	184
➤ January – March 2018	164
➤ April – June 2018	268
➤ July – September 2018	142

TOTAL (15 Overview + 35 Protective Factor trainings = 50 face to face trainings) **758** (738 trained in 2016-17)

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- **Strengthening Families Georgia Online Training Module – Connections: The Foundation of Family Engagement**

This one hour online course is funded by DECAL and received Training Approval on September 30, 2016. This course provides DECAL Quality Rated staff with family engagement information on the protective factor social connections. It includes strategies and resources center staff can use to encourage relationships.

➤ October – December 2017	260
➤ January – March 2018	1392
➤ April – June 2018	1079
➤ July – September 2018	1312
TOTAL	<u>4043</u> <i>(738 trained in 2016-17)</i>

- **SFG Parent Café Training of Trainers (TOT)**

The SFG Parent Café Train of Trainer (TOT) developed in 2018 with funding from United Way of Greater Atlanta (UWGA) and GAEYC was offered for the first time in 2018. The DFCS 2017-18 contract was amended to include conducting one 6-hour SFG Parent Café Training of Trainers (TOT) for 24 kinship navigators, coordinators and foster parent family resource staff on August 29, 2018. Parent Cafes conducted by SFG Facilitators in 2017-18:

TOTAL (3 SFG Parent Cafes)	<u>19</u>
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- **SFG Parent Modules and Protective Factors Training of Trainers (TOT) for Parent and Community Leaders**

The SFG parent modules, originally developed with funding from United Way of Greater Atlanta (UWGA) were revised and a SFG Training of Trainers: Protective Factors for Parent and Community Leaders was developed with funding from UWGA and GAEYC. Two TOTs were conducted in the previous grant year, but were not offered in 2017-18. Additional TOT sessions will be offered as funding is secured. One-hour parent module trainings for 2017-18:

TOTAL (5 parent trainings)	<u>48</u>
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- **Conference Presentations**

- October 12, 2017: DFCS Supervisor’s Summit: Calloway Gardens, GA
- October 26, 2017: Georgia Conference on Children and Families, Augusta, GA
- November 16, 2017: National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Atlanta GA
- February 3, 2018: Georgia DOE Family Engagement Conference, Macon, GA

Submitted six (6) conference proposals in 2017-18.

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Resources and Public Awareness

- Updated and distributed SFG Fact Sheet at all SFG training sessions and community events
- Developed and distributed SFG newsletters for professionals (2) to over 3,100 individuals via Constant Contact
- Developed and distributed SFG newsletters for parents (2) to Partners to disseminate.
- Child Abuse Prevention Month materials distributed to Partnership and posted on website including 2018 Resource Guides, Activity Calendars and Parent Tip Sheets. Represented SFG at the Governor's Proclamation signing.
- Participated in Third Annual Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Day on April 11, 2018.
- Participated in Nurturing Communities Civic Dinner hosted by an SFG Partner on April 24, 2018
- Added all Leadership Team agencies/organizations to SFG Letterhead
- Added November 2017 as Parent Engagement Month DOE materials link to the website.
- Distributed and incorporated into SFG new materials developed by CSSP in 2017-18.
- Updated the Georgia Strengthening Families State Profile for the CCSP website
- Updated website (www.strengtheningfamiliesga.net) and included current news, SFG training resources, new family resources, and a quarterly Spotlight on Partners that highlighted Georgia Voices for Children, Georgia Association for the Education of Young Children, Black Child Development Institute – GA Chapter, and Family Connection Partnership. Total number of 2017-18 website visits representing a significant increase = 9,290 (6,186 visits in 2016-17).
- Provided technical assistance to programs interested in Strengthening Families

Goal Two: Unify ECE, child health and development, child welfare, and family support sectors to promote strengths-based approaches to working with families.

Leadership Growth and Sustainability

- Developed SFG 2016-22 Communication and Marketing Plan
- Developed a Letter of Inquiry, SFG TOT descriptions, and a SFG protocol for integration of SF work into partner funding applications for resource development
- Joined the Georgia Family Support Network. Participated in Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support Training by the National Family Support Network
- Conducted three SFG Leadership Team and two SFG Partnership meetings
- Governance, Strategic Planning, Evaluation and Resource Development Committees met regularly and guided SFG's current and future work
- Added the following representatives to the SFG Leadership Team:
 - Natalie Towns, DFCS Prevention and Community Support Director
 - Layla Fitzgerald, GA Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
 - Brandy Woolridge, Georgia Department of Education

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- Added the following representatives to the SFG Partnership:
 - Mahogania Smith and Denetris Hurt, UGA Project FREE Coordinators
 - Shannon Roundtree, Child Care Resource and Referral-Albany State University
 - Angela Backers, A New Generation F.A.C.E.S. & Discovery Point Franchising
 - Terrie Buckner, Learning Keys Training & Consulting
 - Consuela Carter, CC Educational Training Services, LLC
 - Bobbie Lee, AGC Training Center
 - Lisa Polk, SFG Trainer
- Participated in CDC Essentials for Childhood (EfC), CDC Reverse Site Visit for Essentials for Childhood Team on January 25-26, 2018 and development of proposal for CDC-RFA-CE18-1803: State Essentials for Childhood: Implementation of Strategies and Approaches for CAN Prevention
- Participated in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education, Project FREE Grant through the University of Georgia, Cooperative Extension
- Implemented a plan to embed Strengthening Families into Technical Colleges.

Goal Three: Use Strengthening Families framework to guide policy and decision-making.

SFG Strategic Plan 2017-22

- All seven of the Year One SFG 2017– 22 Strategic Plan Initiatives were implemented except 4.1 Produce and use a case statement for support of SFG which was deferred to Year Two in order to secure funding.
 - Knowledge assessment was built into the Partner Survey administered in March 2018
 - 3.1 Communication strategies for the state and organizations were developed and included in the Communications Plan.
 - 3.2 and 3.3 Examples of how Partners are using SF and the Protective Factors in their organizational work are documented in the Examples of Embedding. Document. Documentation also detailed how DECAL embedded the Protective Factors into their policies and practices.
 - 4.2 An SFG protocol was developed for integration of SFG work into partner funding applications that support SF.
 - 5.1 Rubric for determining “success” in integrating Protective Factors is in 2nd draft stage of development.

Evaluation

- CSSP conducted two surveys, one of the SF state network – Leadership and Partners. Fourteen (14) Georgia partners responded to the survey request. The SFG Chair completed a second CSSP survey on the Georgia SF Initiative.

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- Evaluation Consultants and Evaluation Committee provided written reports and presented key findings and recommendations to the Leadership Team based on the following data collection:
 - The SFG Leadership Team Survey developed using the national Strengthening Families™ Leadership Team Roles document was administered via survey monkey between November and December 2017. Twenty-four leadership team members were asked to respond and 71% (17) completed the survey.
 - The 2017CY Partnership Survey was conducted at the March 21, 2018 SFG Partnership meeting. Twenty-six members were present and completed the survey; representing 54% of the partner organizations.
 - A total of 16 partners, representing 31% of the partnership, participated the two focus groups held in March and July 2018.
 - Across the three data collection opportunities, 75% of partner organizations participated in at least one. This triangulation of data collection provided greater confidence in findings.



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As of September 30, 2018