



Summarized Findings: Strengthening Families Self- Assessment

Partnership for Strong Families

Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families Grant Project Period: October 1, 2019 – September 29, 2024

Introduction

As part of the project's larger evaluation, process evaluation activities were conducted to gain qualitative insight to the operations and service delivery of Partnership for Strong Families' (PSF) network of Family Resource Centers (FRCs). This qualitative data provided the opportunity for continuous quality improvement, thus refining the services and programming offered at each FRC. As part of this process evaluation, one of the largest refinement efforts was the Strengthening Families Self-Assessment (SFSA), a structured, research informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. This component of our research evaluated the fidelity of our best-practice strategies aimed at building family well-being across five core protective factors:

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Process

Each center assembled a diverse SFSA team of 10-12 individuals, including FRC staff, community partners, and community ambassadors (FRC Patrons). Participants completed individual self-assessment surveys tailored to each protective factor, followed by facilitated group discussions to evaluate findings, identify strengths, and co-create action plans to refine services and programming at each FRC. This process occurred over several months, as

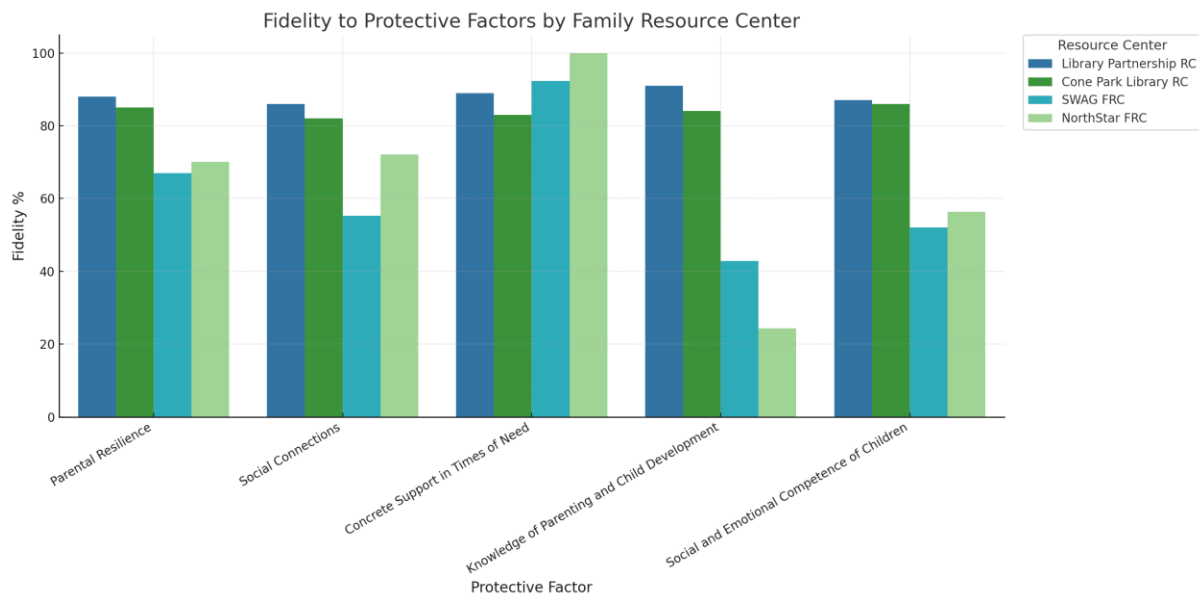


discussions were detailed, and participants were given as much time as needed to express themselves and contribute to the facilitated discussions surrounding their FRC and the Protective Factors.

SFSA Fidelity Results by Protective Factor

Each FRC team completed a self-assessment survey, which contained statements that reflect key practices aligned with each Protective Factor. Team members then rated the degree to which these practices were consistently implemented.

This chart shows the fidelity levels to each of the five Protective Factors across the four Family Resource Centers.



Fidelity ranges were defined as follows:

- **High Fidelity: 75-100%** (indicating that Practices are well-aligned with the framework and consistently implemented across the FRC sites)
- **Moderate Fidelity: 50-74%** (indicating that Some alignment exists, but implementation may be inconsistent or require improvement)
- **Low Fidelity: Below 50%** (Minimal alignment, significant gaps, or unclear implementation practices)



Key Findings by Site

Library Partnership Resource Center (LPRC)

- Achieved **high fidelity** across all five protective factors.
- Identified strengths included extensive concrete supports and strong strategies promoting knowledge of parenting and child development.
- Action items focused on expanding culturally responsive engagement and leveraging peer-based parent support networks.

Cone Park Library Resource Center (CPLRC)

- Achieved **high fidelity** across all protective factors.
- Identified strengths included effective staff practices, rich community partnerships, and consistent outreach.
- Action items focused on expanding multilingual services and father-specific programming.

SWAG Family Resource Center (SWAG FRC)

- Achieved **high fidelity** for Concrete Supports in Times of Need.
- Demonstrated **moderate fidelity** for Parental Resilience, Social Connections, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children.
- Demonstrated **low fidelity** for Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development.
- Action items focused on increasing awareness of parenting supports, strengthening peer-to-peer programming, and launching a parent speaker series.

NorthStar Family Resource Center (NSFRC)

- Achieved **high fidelity** for Concrete Supports in Times of Need.
- Demonstrated **moderate fidelity** for Parental Resilience, Social Connections, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children.
- Demonstrated **low fidelity** for Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development.
- Action items focused on addressing mental health and wellness, expanding co-located services, and developing culturally inclusive programming for non-English speakers.



Implemented Action Items

The following lists key actions that have been implemented by each FRC, following the SFSA process. These actions reflect efforts to strengthen programming, expand outreach, and enhance engagement with families and the community.

Library Partnership Resource Center (LPRC)

- Hosted family engagement events
- Completed cultural competency training
- Distributed multilingual outreach materials
- Strengthened feedback loops with patrons

Cone Park Library Resource Center (CPLRC)

- Launched a Parent Advisory Council
- Developed a community garden plan
- Conducted father-focused outreach
- Began multilingual flyer campaigns
- Increased volunteer engagement

SWAG Family Resource Center (SWAG FRC)

- Reinstated social connection events, such as monthly community dinners, that has been paused because of the COVID- 19 pandemic
- Launched a speaker series and parent support nights
- Improved outreach using flyers and email
- Expanded partnerships with schools and businesses

NorthStar Family Resource Center (NSFRC)

- Conducted health and wellness fairs
- Targeted outreach to marginalized populations
- Developed youth-led programming
- Provided space for co- located community partners



Conclusion

The Strengthening Families Self-Assessment process has served as a meaningful tool for reflection, growth, accountability, and refinement across PSF's network of Family Resource Centers. Through a collaborative and community-informed approach, each site highlighted areas for improvement in aligning practices with the Protective Factors Framework, while acknowledging existing strengths in supporting communities, families and children.

Action items have already been implemented across the sites resulting in increased parent engagement, expanded outreach to diverse populations, stronger community partnerships, and improved accessibility to services.

The fidelity scores and responses to identified action items illustrate that this is not a one-time exercise but part of an ongoing cycle of refinement. The SFSA process has enhanced the capacity of each FRC to be more inclusive, responsive, and community-driven— providing for a more equitable and effective service delivery.

It is hoped that the outcomes of this process continue to refine PSF's network of Family Resource Centers, thus contributing to the agency's mission of enhancing the community's ability to protect and nurture children by building, maintaining and constantly improving a network of family support services.