

Strengthening Families Washington is an initiative within the Department of Early Learning (DEL) that focuses on strengthening families and preventing child maltreatment. It is an important component in DEL's Early Achievers initiative to improve quality across all programs. DEL Strengthening Families Washington works in partnership with the Washington's Strengthening Families (WSF) Collective. This committee works to steward integration of the Strengthening Families approach and the Protective Factors Framework into statewide systems, communities, and norms through collaboration, innovation and collective impact.

What does DEL Strengthening Families Washington do?

In partnership with parent leaders and communities, we fund and support efforts to help families:

- Strengthen family bonds
- Understand child development
- Cope with the challenge of parenting
- Develop positive discipline skills

Public awareness campaigns

Our work includes public awareness campaigns for child abuse prevention (April is Child Abuse Prevention Month), postpartum depression (Speak Up When You're Down), and shaken baby syndrome (Have a Plan), and infant safe sleep.

Community grants to nonprofits

DEL invests in community efforts to support families using the protective factors framework. A list of current grantees can be found on DEL's website: www.del.wa.gov/development/strengthening/work.aspx. DEL-funded community-based prevention programs served 1024 children and 759 families in FY 14.

Strengthening Families Washington funding

The primary funding stream contributing to Strengthening Families Washington efforts include:

- The federal Community-Based Child Abuse and Prevention grant.
- The Children's Trust Fund, an account into which proceeds from sales of Keep Kids Safe license plates and Heirloom Birth Certificates are deposited.

The Protective Factors Framework

Strengthening Families Washington is guided by the Protective Factors Framework, which promotes optimal development of all children. When we create conditions that protect families and support resilience, families have buffers against adversity and the likelihood of child maltreatment goes down. The five Protective Factors are:

- Parental/Family Resilience
- Social Connections
- Concrete Supports
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

