

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

IDAHO

Partners

- Idaho Children's Trust Fund
- Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, IdahoSTARS project
- IdahoSTARS Quality Child Care Rating Scale pilot sites, 52 across the state

Idaho's Strengthening Families Initiative is being led by a partnership between the Idaho Children's Trust Fund and Idaho Association for the Education for Young Children.

Key aspects of the state approach include:

- Embedding Strengthening Families into *the IdahoSTARS Quality Child Care Rating Scale (QCCRS)*, the quality rating system being development for Idaho's child care facilities and the parents who utilize their services.
- Assigning a Strengthening Families Team Leader to each of our state's seven regions. Responsibilities include: training the *QCCRS* pilot sites' staff (3-4 sites in each region), developing and training a regional training team, and offering training modules in communities throughout the region.
- Developing a 8-module, 17-hour training curriculum, complete with training toolbox, for each Team Leader.
- Assigning a Pilot Mentor trained in Strengthening Families implementation strategies to consult with each of the directors/owners of the pilot sites across the state.
- Providing on-site Strengthening Families training to *every QCCRS* pilot site. Pilot sites include centers, family home facilities serving 1-6 children, and group facilities serving up to 12 children.
- Fostering enhanced collaboration between early childhood professionals and community partners.
- Linking the five Strengthening Families protective factors to existing training offered through the state training clearinghouse.
- Developing a research agenda to document the impact of the pilot.

Exciting things happening right now:

- Each pilot site earns points for *Parent Involvement* in the quality rating system by implementing the Strengthening Families approach. Quality indicators include: the number of training modules completed by staff; the return rate of Parent Partnership surveys; the formation of parent work groups, completion of the self-assessment; creation of an action plan.
- Strengthening Families training curriculum developed and available to share with other states and interested partners.

For additional information on Idaho's Strengthening Families Initiative contact:

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