

Welcome to

NEGLECT: WHAT ARE WE REALLY TALKING ABOUT?

**THE TRAINING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY**

While you're waiting...



*Icebreaker Question* (answer in the chat)

What fictional place would you like to visit?



*Survey & Certificate of Completion*

Available following the training.

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# Hi, We're CalTrin!

## Who we are

- The California Training Institute
- Funded by the State of California, Dept. of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to support child abuse prevention through professional development and extended learning opportunities.
- Designed for staff of family strengthening and child abuse prevention organizations in California, including Family Resource Centers, Child Abuse Prevention Councils, community-based organizations, and other child and family serving systems.

## What we offer

- Live webinars & small group training
- Virtual, self-paced courses
- Job aids & other resources



*This training was made possible with funding from the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed are those of the CEBC /CalTrin and do not necessarily reflect the views of the California Department of Social Services.*

# UPCOMING TRAININGS

*mark your calendars!*

Visit [caltrin.org](https://caltrin.org) to view and register for upcoming webinars or workshops



**03//07** | Life Raft for Kids: Creating Sustainable Programs at the Local Level



**03/19** | Building Through Togetherness not Tasks & To-Do's



**03/08** | What Works in Clinical Supervision: 21 Evidence-Based Strategies



**03/20** | Engaging Indigenous Families & Communities



**03/14** | Protective Factor: Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development



**03/26** | When Trauma Reactions and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Overlap

# Before We Begin...

## BEFORE



Access your participant guide now! The link can be found in the chat.



This presentation is being recorded.

## DURING



Review interactive features for today's session. Locate the controls on the toolbar at the bottom of your screen.

## AFTER



Complete the survey at the end of this webinar to receive your Certificate of Attendance.



A follow-up email will be sent to all participants within two days.



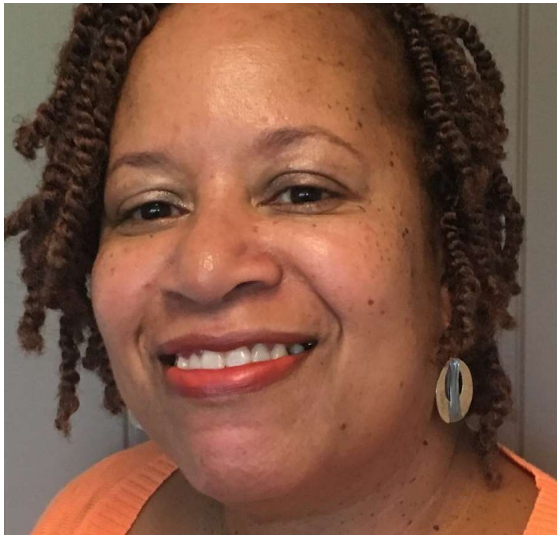
# Neglect: What are we Really Talking About?

**Presenters:**  
**Carolyn Abdullah, MS**  
**Samantha Florey, MA**





# Speaker SPOTLIGHT



**Carolyn Abdullah, MS**

Training & Technical  
Assistance Coordinator  
FRIENDS National  
Center for CBCAP



**Samantha Florey, MA**

Training & Technical  
Assistance Coordinator  
FRIENDS National  
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# FRIENDS is:

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The FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP (FRIENDS) is funded by Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau to promote the purposes of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention program.

FRIENDS provides training and technical assistance to lead agencies intended to build their capacity to meet requirements of Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.



# Learning Objectives

The participant will be able to:

- Understand the definition and risk factors of neglect.
- Understand how to use the FRIENDS Neglect Toolkit to support families and communities.





# The Science of Neglect

[InBrief: The Science of Neglect - YouTube](#)



# Reflections



# Differentiating Between Neglect and Poverty

- SB 8 amended the definition of "abused or neglected child" to specify that a parent or caregivers' inability to provide for their child due to lack of finances or financial assistance is not neglect.
- To be poverty stricken is more complex than having an isolated financial crisis or low income. Poverty by definition is a pattern of not being able to provide sustenance and chronic lack of resources.
- Neglect refers to the failure of a parent to provide for the development of the child – where the parent is in a position to do so – in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter, and safe living conditions. Neglect occurs in cases where adequate care is not provided although resources are available to the family or caregiver. (World Health Organization, n.d.)



# Kentucky Example

## Poverty vs. Neglect

**Poverty  
Is not  
Neglect.**

Kentucky is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in states with the highest poverty rate in America. Kentucky ranks 17.3% of population living below the poverty line (DePietro, 2021).

According to the Census Bureau, the 2021 poverty threshold for a family of four (1 adult and 3 minor children) in an annual income of \$27,575 (United States Census Bureau, 2022). Meanwhile, the average childcare cost for 1 child in Kentucky is \$6,411 annually (Economic Policy Institute, 2020).



# Kentucky's Focus on Systems Change

- KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services created a new Division
  - Prevention and Community Well-Being  
(CBCAP is housed there)
- Legislation amended the definition of child abuse and neglect to reflect that a lack of finances is not neglect
- Has broadened their focus on parent leadership and partnership and included a parent leader as a Prevention Mindset Institute partner





# Discussion Question

Adapted from the Prevention Mindset Institute Newsletter  
*Spring 2023*

<https://friendsnrc.org/cbcap/prevention-mindset-institute/>

How do we create a community-supporting movement that shifts the narrative from reporting families as neglect to supporting families who are lacking basic needs; and from stigmatizing families to advocating for families?





# Unpacking Tools & Resources from FRIENDS

<https://friendsnrc.org/friends-resources/neglect-toolkit/>





# Neglect Toolkit

## Using This Toolkit

The purpose of this toolkit is to assist CBCAP state lead agencies (SLAs) and their partners in understanding neglect and the complexity of this issue, as well as promising approaches and strategies to address it. More public awareness is necessary to strengthen prevention initiatives and better protect children from the harm that neglect can cause.

Each section includes information, specific examples, and links to resources. We hope you find this toolkit helpful to your work and look forward to your feedback, including suggestions and additions to make it more useful. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to [admin@friendsnrc.org](mailto:admin@friendsnrc.org).



### RESOURCES

Media Library

Guide to Storytelling

Historical Trauma Among African Americans

Navigating the Unknowns: Family Support Podcasts

Sharing the Journey: Voices from the Field

Collaboration Toolkit

Neglect Toolkit

Listserves

Online Learning Center



[Neglect Toolkit](#)

[Listserve](#)

[Online Learning Center](#)

**Understanding Neglect**

**+**

**Preventing Neglect**

**+**

**Effective Neglect Prevention Programs**

**+**

**Policies, Public Systems & Partnerships**

**+**

**Public Awareness & Engagement**

**+**

# Understanding Neglect

Neglect can be characterized as occurring in different, but often overlapping domains. These include:

- ❖ Physical: failure to provide necessary food or shelter, or lack of appropriate supervision)
- ❖ Medical: failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment)
- ❖ Educational: failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs)
- ❖ Emotional: inattention to a child's emotional needs, failure to provide psychological care, or permitting the child to use alcohol or other drugs)





# Understanding Neglect



Factors that increase the risk for child neglect include:

- ❖ Poverty/Low Socio–Economic Status/Insufficient Resources
- ❖ Substance Use Disorders
- ❖ Mental Health Disorders
- ❖ Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence
- ❖ Parent’s History of Trauma and/or Abuse
- ❖ Social Isolation



# Sharing the Journey

*Sharing the Journey*  
Voices of Parent Leaders 2017



**Beth Stodghill**  
Tennessee  
"Parent Leadership Journey"

## Parent Leadership Journey

A story about the journey of a parent leader by Beth. To download the audio version of this story, visit <https://soundcloud.com/user-616990317/parent-leadership-journey-beth>

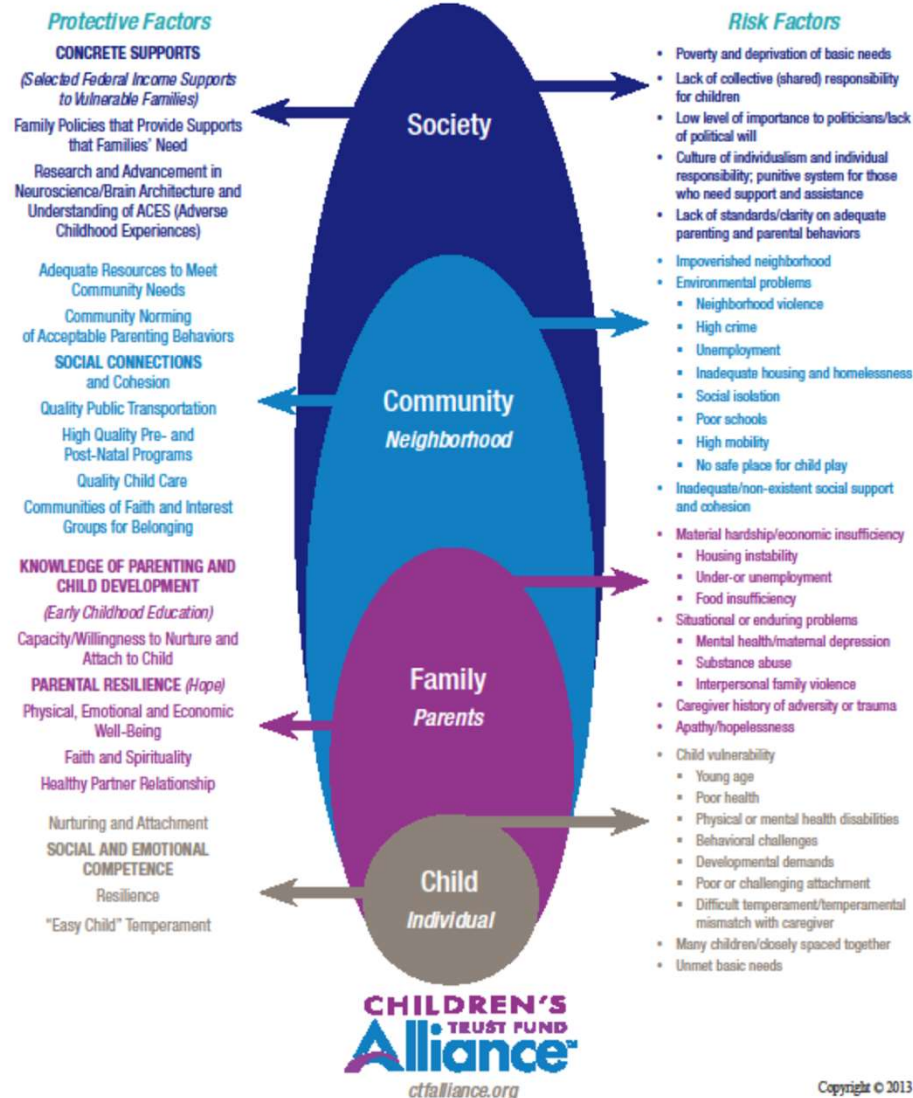
[Parent Leadership Journey | Friends NRC](#)



# Preventing Neglect

## Understanding Neglect within an Ecological System and the Role of Protective and Risk Factors

(As highlighted by Key Informants)



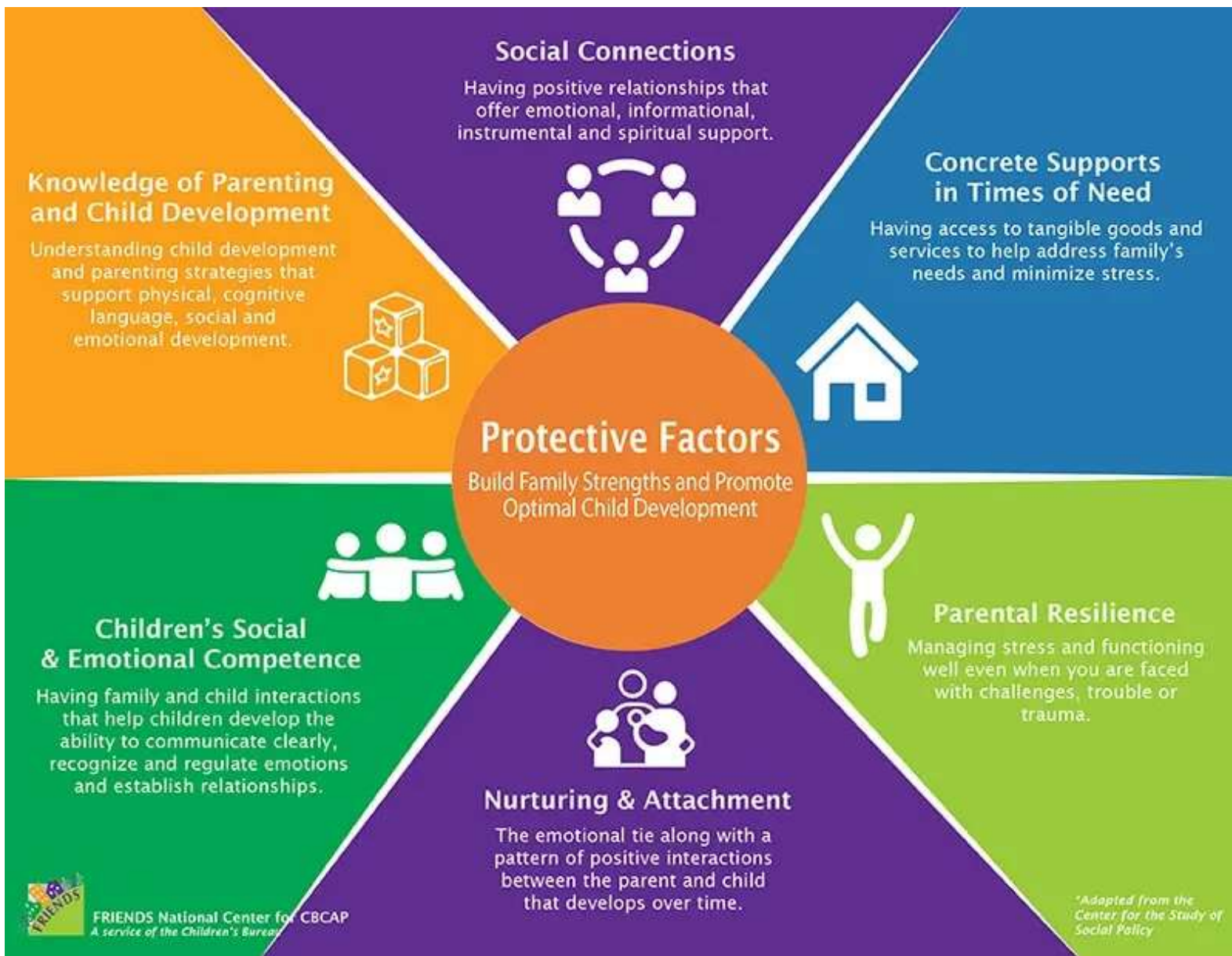
<https://ctfalliance.org/building-healthy-communities/>

This image is from The Children's Trust Fund Alliance and is offered in the Preventing Neglect section of the Neglect Toolkit.

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# Protective Factors and Neglect





# Effective Strategies to Prevent Neglect

| STRATEGY   | PROTECTIVE FACTOR  | SOCIAL ECOLOGY LEVEL  |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Strengthen economic supports to families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving housing opportunities and household financial security</li> <li>- Family-friendly work policies</li> </ul>  | <p>Concrete Support in Times of Need</p>   | <p>Community<br/>Societal</p>                                 |
| <p>Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Early childhood home visitation</li> <li>- Parenting skills and family relationship approaches</li> </ul>   | <p>Parental Resilience<br/>Nurturing &amp; Attachment<br/>Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development<br/>Social and Emotional Competence of Children</p> | <p>Individual<br/>Relationship</p>                            |
| <p>Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public engagement and education campaigns</li> <li>- Legislative policies to support parents and positive parenting initiatives</li> </ul>   | <p>Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development<br/>Social and Emotional Competence of Children</p>  | <p>Community<br/>Societal</p>                                 |
| <p>Provide quality care and education early in life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preschool enrichment with family engagement</li> <li>- Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation</li> <li>- Legislative approaches/policies to support quality early care and education</li> </ul> | <p>Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development<br/>Social Connections<br/>Social and Emotional Competence of Children</p>                                 | <p>Individual<br/>Relationship<br/>Community<br/>Societal</p> |





# Effective Neglect Prevention Programs

The FRIENDS Crosswalk of Evidence-Based Programs is designed to provide information to CBCAP State Lead Agencies to assist in identifying programs they may want to consider funding. It is meant to be used as a starting point and is not an exhaustive list of available programs.

Programs listed in the Crosswalk were selected based on their relevancy to child abuse and neglect prevention and their presence on at least one of six nationally recognized registries for EI/EB programs and practices.

<https://friendsnrc.org/evaluation/evidence-based-practice/ebp-crosswalk/>



# Peer Sharing

What programs do you have that address concrete support needs?

Do you have any programs that address physical health, dental health, and mental health? If you don't have these programs, how are you making connections to them?



# Policies, Public Systems, and Partnerships

Leverage:

- Public Systems
- Community Initiatives
- Two-generation Approaches
- Differential, Alternative, or Community Response



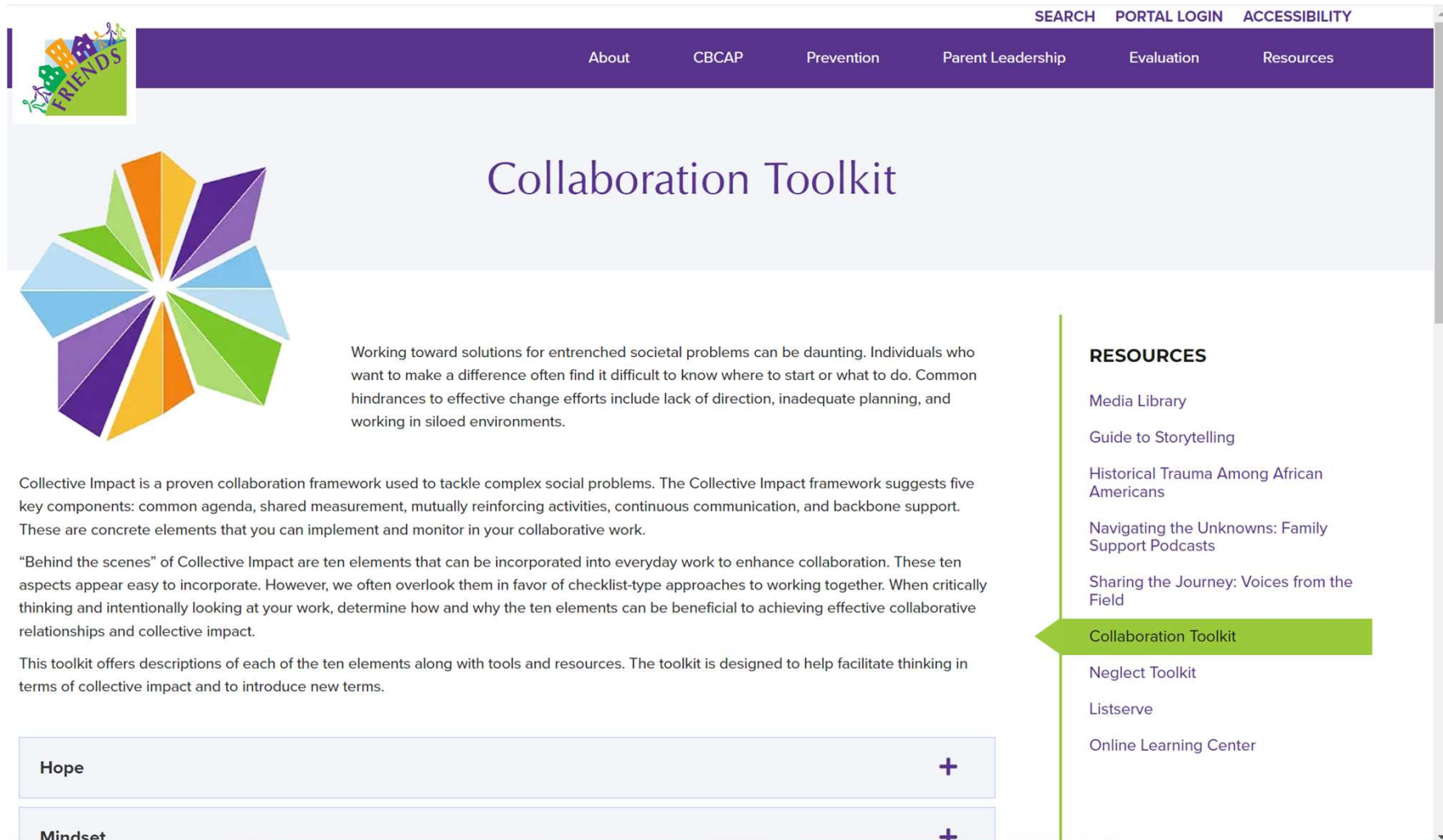
# Public Awareness and Engagement



<https://ctb.ku.edu/en>



# Public Awareness and Engagement



The screenshot shows the Friends NRC website's Collaboration Toolkit page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for About, CBCAP, Prevention, Parent Leadership, Evaluation, and Resources. A search bar, portal login, and accessibility options are also present. The main heading is "Collaboration Toolkit". To the left is a colorful circular graphic with ten segments. Below it, the text explains that working toward solutions for entrenched societal problems can be daunting and lists common hindrances: lack of direction, inadequate planning, and working in siloed environments. It then describes the Collective Impact framework, which suggests five key components: common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support. It also mentions ten elements that can be incorporated into everyday work to enhance collaboration. The toolkit offers descriptions of each of these ten elements along with tools and resources. On the right, a "RESOURCES" sidebar lists several items, with "Collaboration Toolkit" highlighted in a green box. At the bottom left, there are two expandable sections: "Hope" and "Mindset", each with a plus sign.

SEARCH PORTAL LOGIN ACCESSIBILITY

About CBCAP Prevention Parent Leadership Evaluation Resources

## Collaboration Toolkit

Working toward solutions for entrenched societal problems can be daunting. Individuals who want to make a difference often find it difficult to know where to start or what to do. Common hindrances to effective change efforts include lack of direction, inadequate planning, and working in siloed environments.

Collective Impact is a proven collaboration framework used to tackle complex social problems. The Collective Impact framework suggests five key components: common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support. These are concrete elements that you can implement and monitor in your collaborative work.

"Behind the scenes" of Collective Impact are ten elements that can be incorporated into everyday work to enhance collaboration. These ten aspects appear easy to incorporate. However, we often overlook them in favor of checklist-type approaches to working together. When critically thinking and intentionally looking at your work, determine how and why the ten elements can be beneficial to achieving effective collaborative relationships and collective impact.

This toolkit offers descriptions of each of the ten elements along with tools and resources. The toolkit is designed to help facilitate thinking in terms of collective impact and to introduce new terms.

Hope +

Mindset +

### RESOURCES

- Media Library
- Guide to Storytelling
- Historical Trauma Among African Americans
- Navigating the Unknowns: Family Support Podcasts
- Sharing the Journey: Voices from the Field
- Collaboration Toolkit**
- Neglect Toolkit
- Listserve
- Online Learning Center

<https://friendsnrc.org/friends-resources/collaboration-toolkit/>





# How can Communities Help Prevent Neglect?



## Purpose of Guide

This conversation guide is designed to help community stakeholders (service providers, legislators, parents, educators, clergy, housing coordinators and others in contact with families) have meaningful conversations about preventing child neglect. Child neglect is the most widespread type of child maltreatment and requires a comprehensive strategy to address the causes. Preventing child neglect requires changes at the society, community and family levels.

*Neglect counts for over 3/4 of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in the U.S.*

(Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2018)

Guided discussions that address the contextual issues that impact child neglect can:

- Increase awareness about the underlying causes of child neglect as well as develop effective strategies to prevent it.
- Build capacity for collaboration between families, service providers and policy makers.
- Identify resources that are available in the community to support families and mitigate risk.
- Engage community leaders in partnering to prevent child neglect.





# YOU Can Help Prevent Child Neglect in Your Community

## Child Neglect is Preventable!

We all have a role to play in ensuring that families can meet their children's needs.

### What is Neglect?

#### *It's More than a Family Matter*

Child neglect is a failure to meet children's basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, medical care, supervision, shelter) whether the failure is the responsibility of parents, communities or society – and this void, places children in harm's way.

*(National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds)*

### *In Your Own Family*

1. Learn about your own strengths and protective factors and build on them. Protective factors are characteristics or conditions that reduce or buffer the effects of risk, stress or trauma. A protective factor is an asset of some kind. They include a person's skills, strengths, resources, supports and coping strategies. For information: <http://www.friendsnrc.org/protective-factors>  
<http://www.ctfalliance.org/onlinetraining.htm>
2. Recognize you are doing your best as a parent and that everyone experiences parenting challenges at some time. Don't be too hard on yourself or afraid to seek help or additional resources and supports.
3. Learn about your own community resources so you can access supports to help you cope effectively when stressful situations challenge your parenting confidence or make it difficult for you to meet your children's needs.

### *With Families You Know*

1. Build social connections by getting to know your neighbors and parents in your child's child care center or school.
2. Support families in your community in learning about and building protective factors.
3. Reach out to a family that is under stress – offer to watch the kids, drop off a meal, or whatever else might help them get through a difficult time.
4. Listen, empathize and instill hope whenever you speak with families confronting challenges.
5. Form a playgroup where parents can come together and support one another while their children play with peers.
6. Share information about the importance of child neglect prevention with your neighbors and others and ask them to help.

### *For Families in Your Community*

1. Plan a neighborhood meeting with family, friends and agency representatives to share information about resources to meet families' needs.
2. Become a board member or volunteer at a family strengthening organization and ask how you can help expand the conversation about the importance of child neglect prevention.
3. Write a letter to the editor about what families in your community need and how meeting family needs can reduce the likelihood of child neglect.

**The whole community benefits when children grow up to be healthy productive adults.**

***Together We Can Do More!***

For more information, contact:

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### *For All Families*

1. Help others to understand how neglect can happen.
2. Help to change the dialogue from blaming parents to exploring ways to empower parents to raise their children safely.
3. Talk to your legislators about:
  - Developing new resources if there are gaps or
  - Expanding resources for families when needed.



# YOUR ORGANIZATION Can Help Prevent Child Neglect in Your Community

## *Good News—It's Preventable!*

We all have a role to play in ensuring that families can meet their children's needs.

## *It's everyone's responsibility. Together We Can Do More.*

Communities are ultimately responsible for the welfare of children.



### Ways Prevention Programs Can Provide Support:

Support families in learning about and building protective factors. For more information about the protective factors framework, visit:

<http://www.friendsnrc.org/protective-factors>

<http://www.ctfalliance.org/onlinetraining.htm>

1. Remind parents of what they do well when stressful situations challenge their parenting confidence.
2. Listen, empathize and instill hope whenever you speak with families confronting challenges.
3. Support parents in developing playgroups where they can come together and support one another while their children play with peers.
4. Become knowledgeable about your community resources and how to help families access them.
5. Help organizations and policymakers change the dialogue among family strengthening organizations and community-based resources from blaming parents to recognizing that sometimes parents are doing the best they can, and with adequate resources the "neglectful" situation could be eliminated.



### Developing Collaborative Relationships to Strengthen Communities:

1. Partner with family strengthening organizations and other community agencies to develop a community-wide plan to support healthy families and prevent child neglect.
2. Provide training, resources and supports to board members or volunteers in your organization to engage others in order to expand the conversation about the importance of child neglect prevention.
3. Participate in neighborhood meetings with families and other community agency representatives to learn about needs and gaps in services and to share information about available resources.



### Addressing Policy and Public Awareness:

1. Increase the awareness of board members, legislators and other policymakers about the benefits of shifting funding to programs identified as effective in strengthening families and preventing child neglect.
2. Identify, engage and support parents to talk with family strengthening organizations and other community agencies about how neglect can happen and ways to prevent it.
3. Write a letter to the editor about what families in your community need and how meeting family needs can reduce the likelihood of child neglect.
4. Talk to your legislators about:
  - developing new resources if there are gaps or
  - expanding resources for families when needed.

## What is Neglect?

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**The whole community benefits when children grow up to be healthy productive adults. Together We Can Do More!**



For more information, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention  
A service of the Children's Bureau



# Sharing the Journey

*Sharing the Journey*  
Voices of Parent Leaders 2022



**Eileen Graham**  
Georgia  
"Unstoppable"

## Unstoppable

A story about resilience and empowering other parents by Eileen Graham. To download the audio version of this story, visit: <https://soundcloud.com/user-616990317/unstoppable>

[Unstoppable | Friends NRC](#)



# Additional FRIENDS Resources

- Collaboration Toolkit:

<https://friendsnrc.org/friends-resources/collaboration-toolkit/>

- Parent and Practitioner Newsletter (English & Spanish):

<https://friendsnrc.org/parent-leadership/parent-and-practitioner-newsletter/>

- Sharing the Journey: Voices from the Field:

<https://friendsnrc.org/friends-resources/sharing-the-journey-voices-from-the-field/>

- Culturally Effective Organization Framework:

<https://friendsnrc.org/prevention/cultural-effectiveness/>

- Prevention Mindset Institute – Information and Podcasts:

<https://friendsnrc.org/cbcap/prevention-mindset-institute/>

- Free Online Learning Center:

<https://friendsnrc.org/friends-resources/online-learning-center/>







Questions?



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*FRIENDS is a service of the Children's Bureau*

[www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)

# Thanks for joining us!

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Survey and certificate in the chat now
- Follow-up email with resources within two days
- Watch your inbox for the next issue of *CalTrin Connect*



**STAY CONNECTED FOR MORE FREE TRAINING & RESOURCES!**

