

Child Neglect: The Hidden Secret

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND "GRANTEE TRAINING"
AUGUST 2, 2016



PRESENTER



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WHAT WE DO

ABOUT FRIENDS AND OUR SERVICES

WHAT IS CBCAP

DEFINITIONS AND LEGISLATION

COLLABORATION

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES & PARENT LEADERSHIP

PREVENTION

DEFINITIONS, APPROACHES & PROTECTIVE FACTORS

OUTCOMES

EVAL TOOLKIT & RESOURCES

STATE

CBCAP CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

CBCAP PLC—CBCAP Grantees Meeting Preview

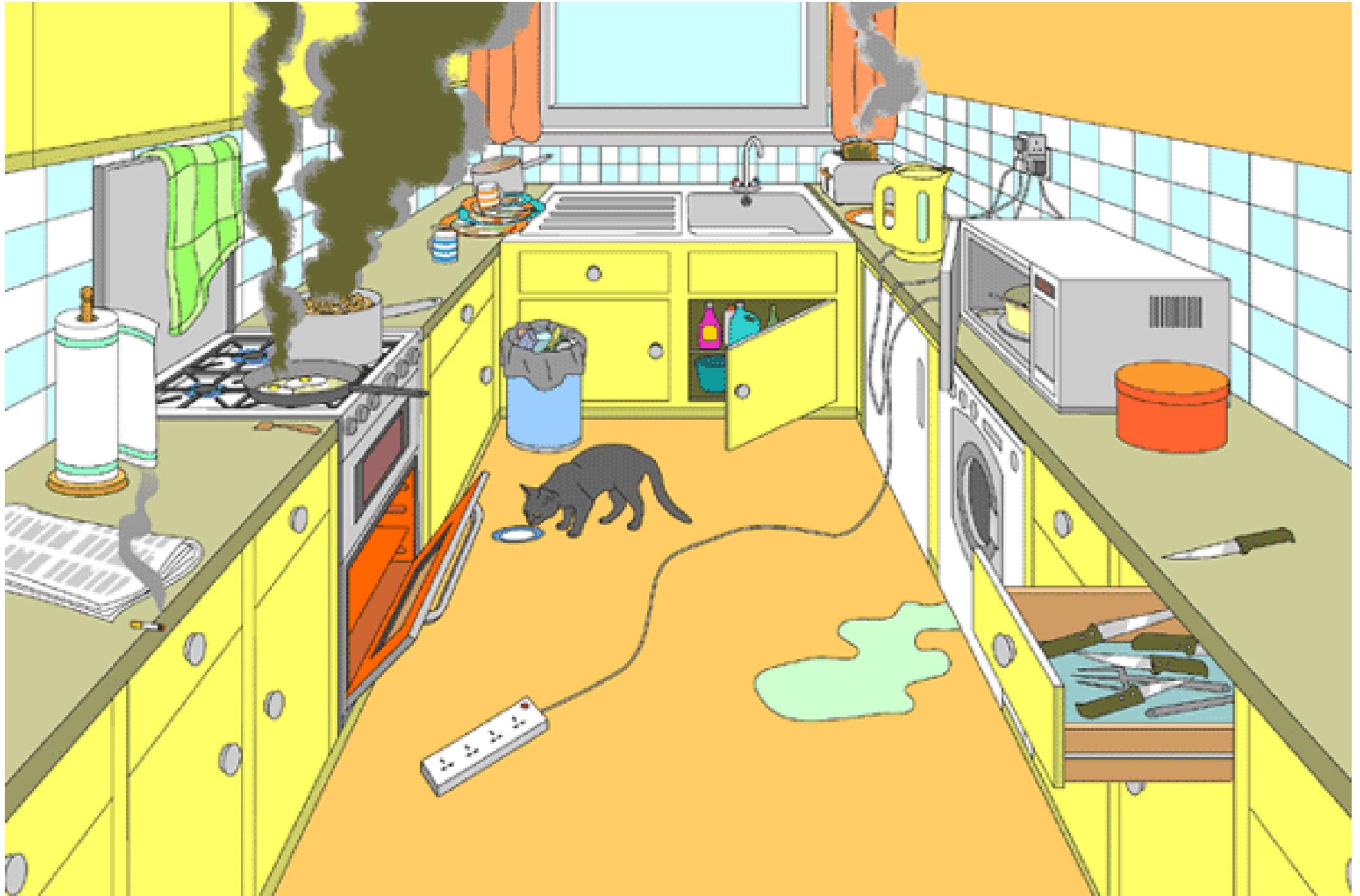
Wednesday, August 10, 2016
@ 2pm EST

Join us for this informational session about the Grantees Meeting later this month.

[DETAILS](#)







Neglect

There is no single definition of Child Neglect.

- It is frequently defined as, “the failure of a parent or other person with responsibility for the child to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision to the degree that the child’s health, safety, and well-being are threatened with harm. “
- In Alabama, 'Neglect' means negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, or supervision. Citation: Ala. Code § 26-14-1(1)-(3)

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway. Available online at https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/define.cfm

Alabama 2014 Child Maltreatment Data

Types of Victims:

- 40.1 % were Neglect
- 47.3% were Physical Abuse
- 20.3% were Sexual Abuse

Child Neglect Trends

Child Neglect....

- Is the most common form of child maltreatment in the U.S. today
- Is the most frequently investigated allegation by CPS
- Is the most common reason for placing children in foster care
- Is the type of maltreatment most closely associated with poverty

Indicators of poverty are more consistent predictors of neglect than most measures of parenting

In fiscal year 2013, 80% of all cases nationally referred to child protective services (CPS) involved neglect

Trends in neglect have not declined in pace with declines in physical and sexual abuse

The trend is to view all forms of child maltreatment through a public health perspective.

Conceptualizing Neglect

Parental neglect of
children

Societal neglect of
families

Community neglect
of families

Societal neglect of
community

National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention
Funds

CHILD NEGLECT IMPACT

Neglect is not one category – subtypes include physical, medical, emotional & educational neglect, & inadequate supervision

Dominant and most pervasive form of CA/N

70% of all child fatalities (2012)

Only type of CA/N that has not declined in recent years

More likely to recur than other forms of CA/N

When recurring, cumulative impacts to child over time

Can seriously impair child's physical, cognitive, & social and emotional development

Causes OF CHILD NEGLECT

No single cause of neglect

Four evidence-informed characteristics that contribute to or are associated with child neglect

- Low socio-economic status
- Maternal depression and mental health disorders
- Substance abuse
- Interpersonal violence



Joining Together NACTF and FRIENDS

The Alliance has invested six years of significant attention to understanding and promoting strategies that help build healthy communities and prevent child neglect.

Developing tools for sharing parent perspectives on preventing child neglect.

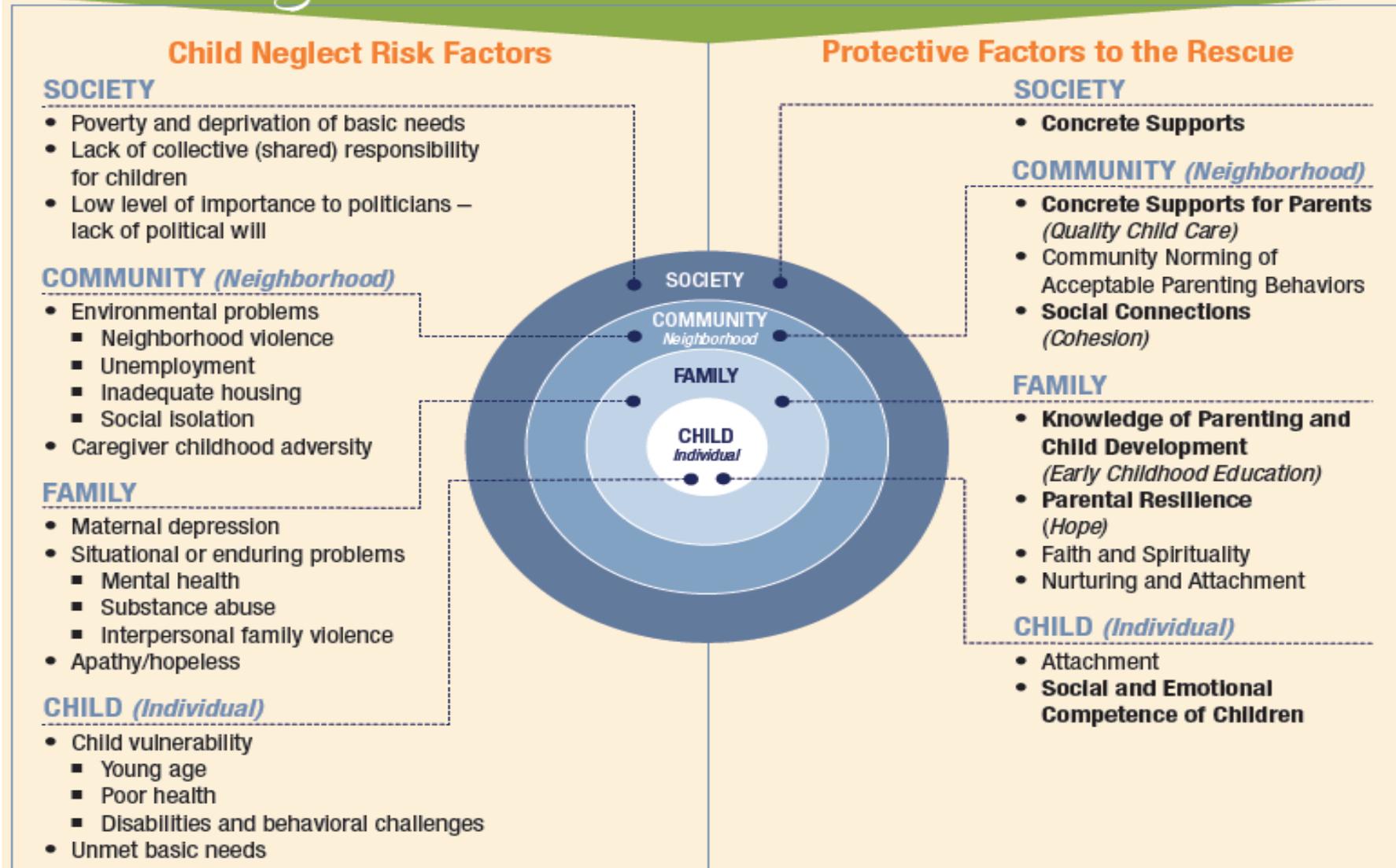
Based on our Theory of Change, we are identifying examples around the country of implementation of strategies that work.

FRIENDS NC for CBCAP

1. Administer survey and summarize findings on Child Neglect (April - May 2016)
2. Convened a Community of Practice (CoP) (May - September 2016)
3. Developing Resources

Good news **IT'S PREVENTABLE**

Child Neglect within the **SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL MODEL**



Interviews



- 22 – diverse perspectives- experts, parents, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, CTF staff

What they learned?

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Understanding of/Focus on Brain Architecture
- Universal Early Childhood Education & Development
- Standard of Adequate Parent Care /Parenting Behaviors
- Resources to Meet Family's Needs
- Competent Parenting

RISK FACTORS

- History of Trauma
- **Poverty/Insufficient Resources**
- Maternal Depression/Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Devaluing/minimizing challenges associated with raising children

Poverty and Neglect

Poverty is repeatedly shown to be a risk factor for child maltreatment, in particular, child neglect

Line between poverty and neglect is sometimes blurred

Parents and the “can’t win” dilemma

American ideology that poverty equates to a personal flaw

Yet, longstanding philosophy in child welfare that poverty does not equal maltreatment

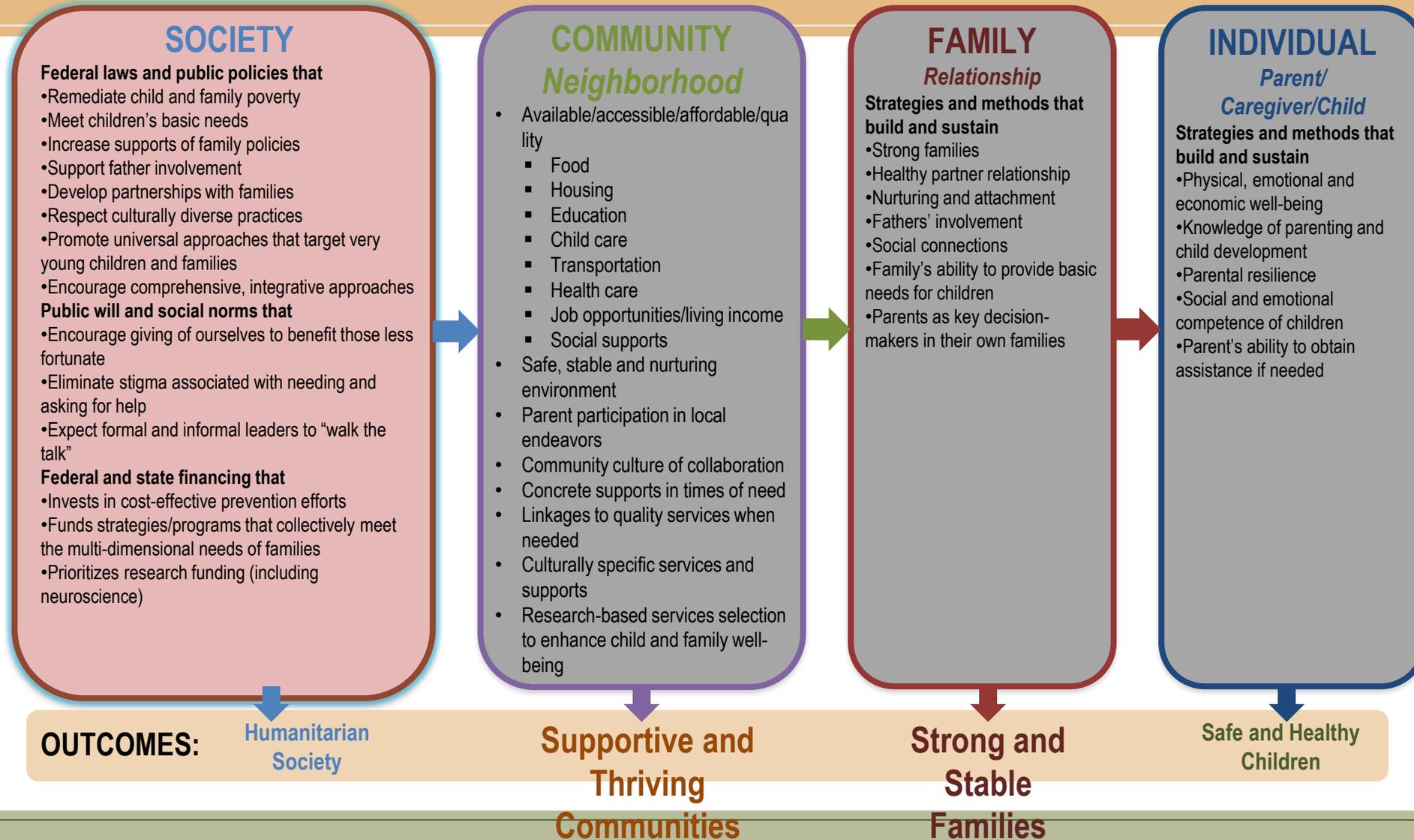
- Children should not be separated from their families “for reasons of poverty alone.”
- This phrase has permeated child welfare practice philosophy for over 100 years and is common in many state statutory definitions of neglect even today.

(Kristen Shook Slack, PhD, Presentation to the Birth Parent National Network Virtual Convening, November 3 2015 (www.bpnn.ctfalliance.org))

National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds: Call to Action

PREVENT CHILD NEGLECT

- Acknowledge existence and increase public awareness of child neglect
- Recognize the ramifications of inaction
- Embrace strategies to reduce incidence and prevalence of child neglect
- Intervene and effectively treat child neglect

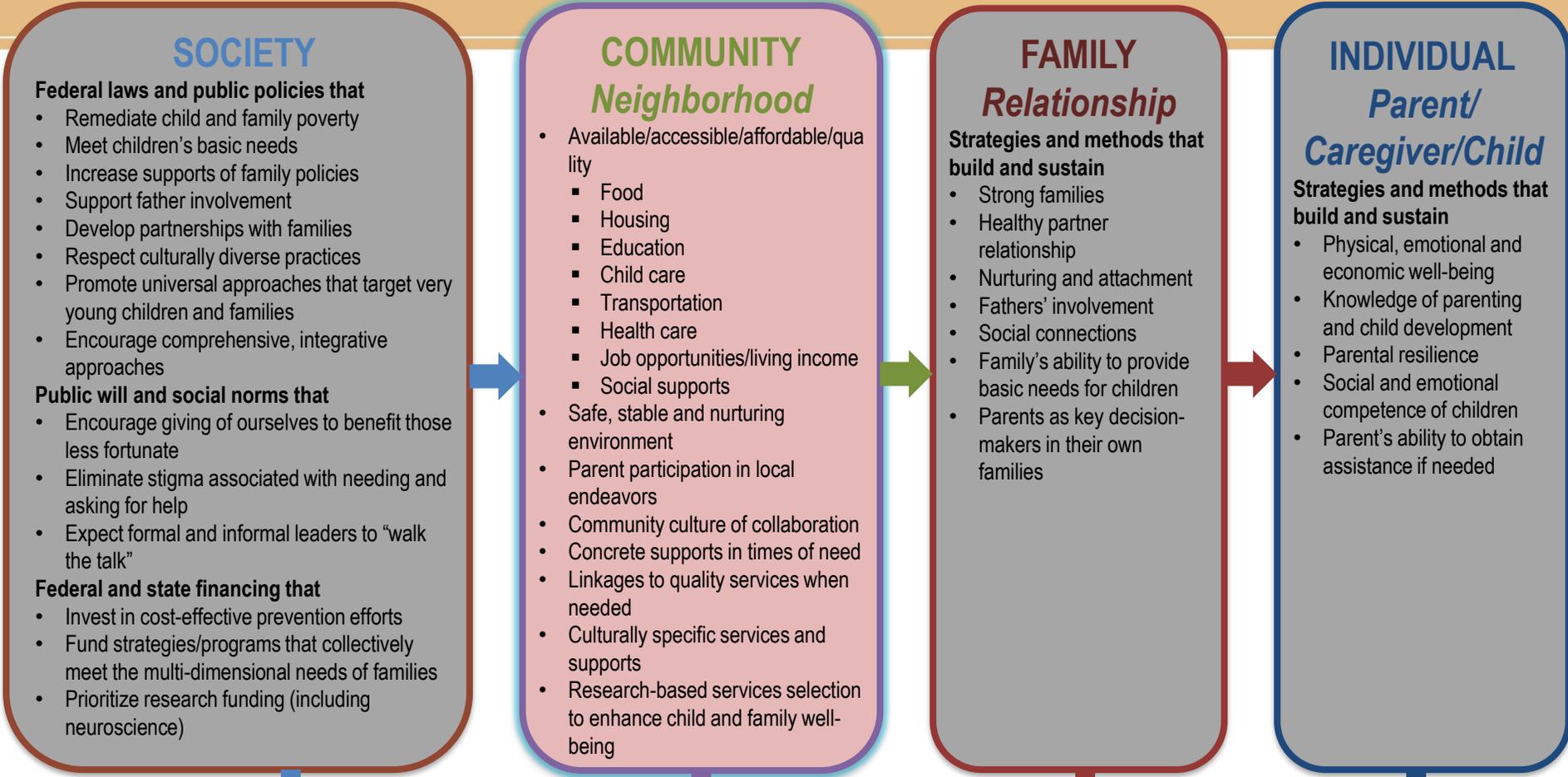


A WISH LIST AT THE SOCIETY LEVEL

- *Advances in neuroscience*
- *Government policies and programs that provide economic support*
- *Recognize the importance of parenting & offer education, social and material support to parents who are in need*
- *Design prevention strategies that address all levels of socio-ecological model*
- *Universal policies that support new parents*

Call to Action: PREVENT CHILD NEGLECT

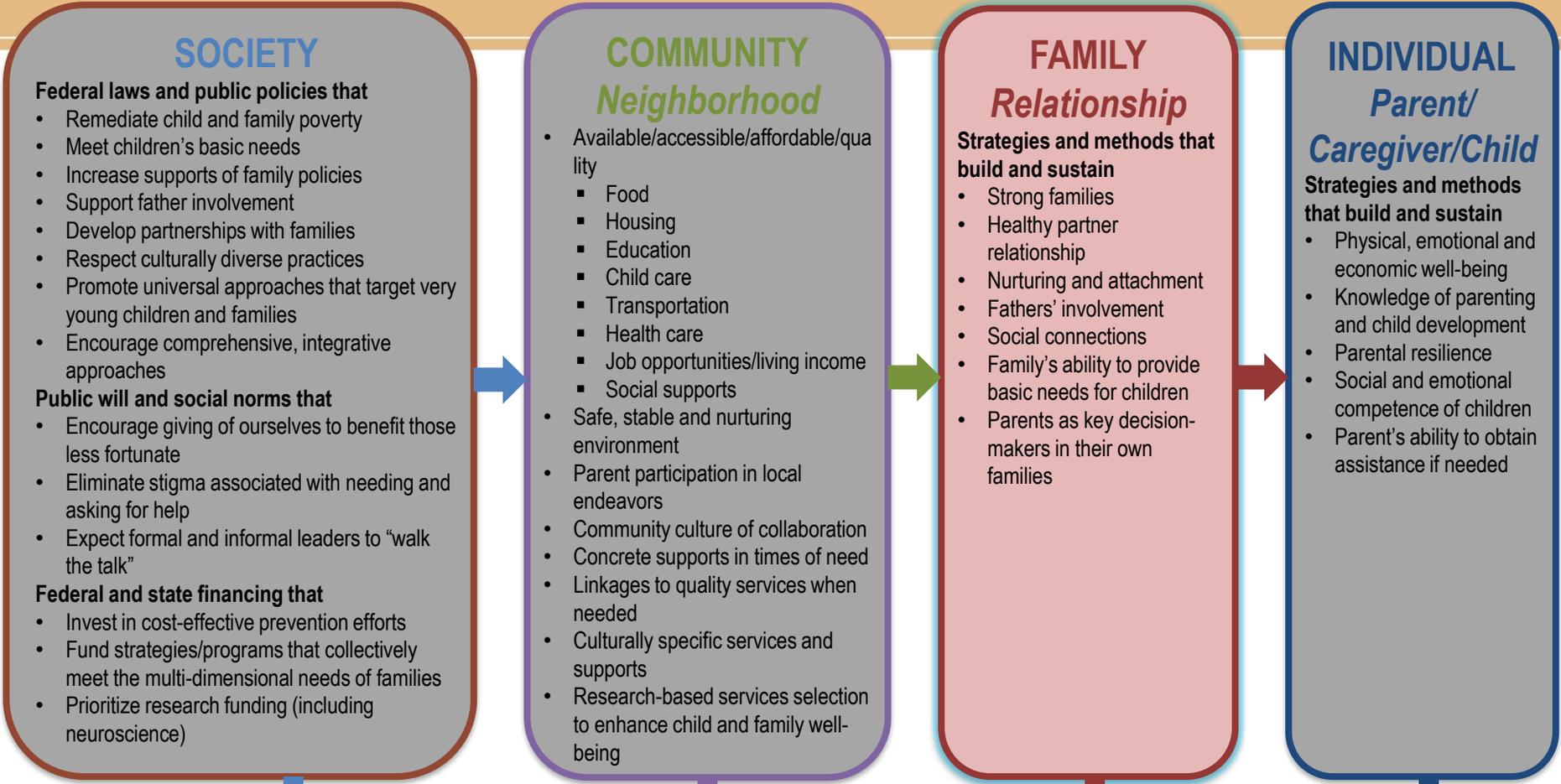
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OUTCOMES: **Humanitarian Society** **Supportive and Thriving Communities** **Strong and Stable Families** **Safe and Healthy Children**

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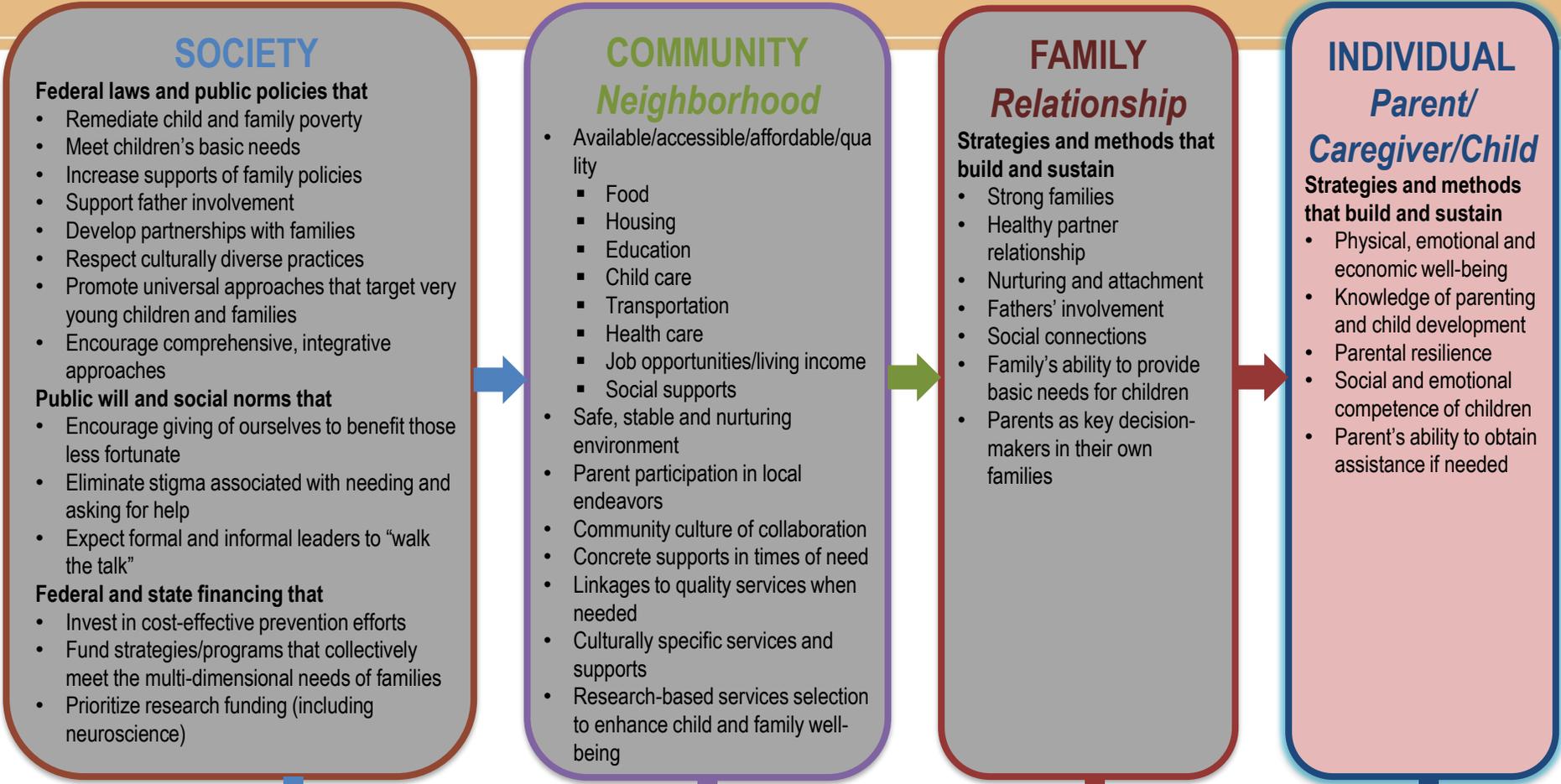
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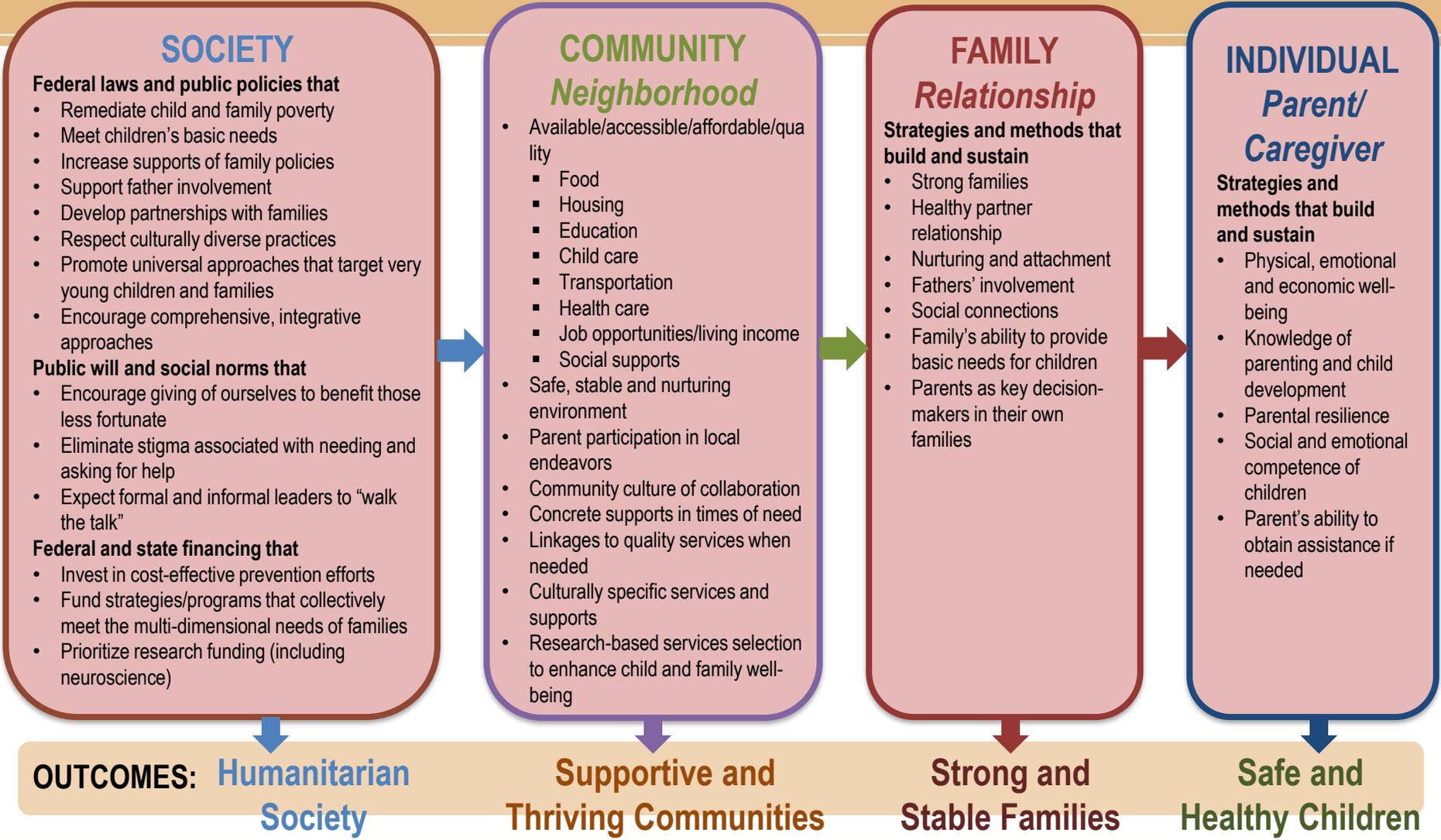
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What Can I Do...

...As a Member of **SOCIETY?**

- Communicate the importance of child neglect prevention in all walks of life – Assume the role of advocate and champion whenever possible
- Advocate to shore up the safety net
- Raise political awareness about poverty and the need to alleviate it
- Reframe issues & narratives in ways that reduce or eliminate polarization of our reactions to social problems
- Move discussion from incriminating parents to examining the context and communities in which nearly all parents are trying to raise children safely

What Can I Do...

...As a Member of a **COMMUNITY** ?

- Communicate importance of child neglect prevention to your neighbors
- Mobilize community members to establish “2-1-1” capacity to identify and share information about resources to meet families’ needs
- Establish means to expose “power leaders” to (1) families living in compromised environments & (2) efforts that effectively prevent child neglect...Facilitate this exposure.
- Identify credible Story Tellers who are willing to publically share their personal narratives and promote opportunities to share these stories.
- Offer and provide support to parents and others who share their personal narratives to educate others.

Community Cafés

- Engaging community members in focused, structured discussions around questions that are important to child, family and community well-being.
- Building partnerships with parents and building protective factors within a community

<http://thecommunitycafe.com/>



What Can I Do...

...As a Member of a **FAMILY** ?

- Demonstrate supportive parent-child Interactions both in your home and in public settings
- Identify & remind parents of what they do well when stressful situations challenge their parenting confidence.
- Form a playgroup where parents come together and support one another while their children play with peers.
- Nurture your primary relationship and remember the importance of intimate partner relationship stability
- Create or maintain opportunities and experiences that instill hope and promote optimism

What Can I Do...

...As An **INDIVIDUAL**?

- Communicate the importance of child neglect prevention to others and whenever possible, enlist them in your efforts.
- Become a resource to your local media on child neglect prevention as well as to civic, religious, and hobby groups that present opportunities to 'spread the word.'
- Change the dialogue – Create narratives that challenge the notion that support to families is overprotective.
- Listen, empathize, and instill hope whenever you speak with families confronting challenges
- Support families in building protective factors

Resources

National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds

<http://ctfalliance.org>

- Executive summary of the key informant interviews
- Special editions of the Research Review (literature review, Discussion on key informant interview as a qualitative research methodology)
- Fact Sheets
- Educational powerpoint presentations on neglect prevention
- Info-Graphics: Facts About Child Neglect; Communicating about Child Neglect Prevention; Alliance Theory of Change

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identifying/neglect/>

- Offers resources to define and identify the signs and symptoms of different types of child neglect.

FRIENDS NC

FRIENDS Website – <http://www.friendsnrc.org>

FRIENDS On-Line Learning Center (OLC) –
<http://www.friendsnrcelearning.org>

FRIENDS Listserve -
<http://friendsnrc.org/resources/listserve>



Questions

