Parenting In Context

Strengthening Families Program

An Overview of Parent Educator Experiences with the Strengthening Families Program in New York
1. How do you fund SFP in your county?
2. What strategies do you use to secure funding?
3. How do you sustain SFP over time?
4. What are the biggest perceived barriers to offering SFP?
5. If not currently offering SFP, why?
Funding SFP

- Write SFP funding into a grant (*Suzan Sussmann, Orange County*)

- We provided program facilitators and the site covered the costs of recruiting, food, childcare & transportation

- Safe Schools Grant (*Mary Jane Rissacher, Albany County*)

- The one time we implemented this program, the school district funded it with a member item from state senator Tom Libous (*Judith Wolf, Tioga County*)

- The Haverstraw Center program is funded by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)

- Spring Valley training was supported by a Federal Weed and Seed grant (*Pat Hubbard, Rockland County*)
Sustaining SFP

• Write it into grants when applicable
• Recently approved for a grant from the OC Youth Bureau and will provide SF for our RAPP families this summer (Suzan Sussmann, Orange County)

• Established a Strengthening Families Collaborative that meets regularly to support the agencies and facilitators who are providing the Program
• Anticipate looking for a collaborative grant that might fund the Program in Spring Valley next year (Pat Hubbard, Rockland County)
Barriers to Offering SFP

Staffing Limitations
- Staff no longer employed by CCE Association
- Program requires at least 3 trained facilitators
- Difficult to allocate required staff time

Funding
- Not only staff time but also child care, meals, and (sometimes) transportation for families

Recruitment
- Initial recruitment difficult due to the extensive time commitment of SFP for families
- Once committed, generally easy to keep participation
Barriers to Offering SFP

Other Programs with Similar Goals as SFP

• Addiction and substance abuse prevention programs for youth competing for county support

Support Changes

• School administration changed $\rightarrow$ funding streams changed $\rightarrow$ have not been able to sustain the Program at the school district
Barriers to Offering SFP

Strengthening Families Program Structure

- Limitations in discussion time and topics challenging to facilitate
- Families indicated the need for more time to process the content and explore other topics like relatives as parents, sexuality development, separated and blended families and children’s mental health