

Help Identify & Support Family Resource Centers!

Family Resource Center Landscape Study

About the Study.

Family resource centers (FRCs) play a unique role in supporting and connecting families to an array of services. The Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) and other family support stakeholders are exploring ways to engage and support FRCs in their work. The Family Resource Center (FRC) Landscape Study team is identifying Washington organizations that meet this definition:



FRCs Provide:

- ✓ Information and referral
- ✓ Family advocacy (e.g., screening, needs and strengths assessment, goal-setting)
- ✓ Family supportive services (e.g., parenting education, new-parent support groups, diaper closets) provided directly or through contracted providers

FRCs Are Organizations That Are:

- ✓ Place-based locations where families can go and be welcomed (when there are not pandemic-related restrictions in place)
- ✓ Strengths-based, designed to build community, and designed to meet the needs, cultures, and interests of the communities served

Family resource centers are known by many names: youth and family centers, family support centers, family success centers, or information and service centers. They may have a unique community name, such as the Chinese Information Service Center (in King County).

How You Can Help.

- ➡ Complete the [FRC Finder form](#) and share contact information for organizations that fit the description.
- ➡ Forward this request to anyone who may be able to identify organizations.

****We hope to identify FRCs across the state by April 15th, 2021****

For more information, contact: FRCstudy@kaseylangleyconsulting.com



What is the FRC Landscape Study?

Strengthening Families Washington at DCYF contracted with a team of researchers to learn more about family resource centers across the state. The study consists of four key tasks:

Identify as many FRCs as possible (via the FRC Finder)	March-April 2021
Conduct an online survey of FRCs focused on study questions	April-May 2021
Conduct key informant interviews to explore key FRC topics	March-May 2021
Summarize information and prepare an FRC landscape report	June-July 2021

Why did DCYF commission this study?

FRCs play a unique role in connecting families to resources, particularly in times of need. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted FRCs as a vital piece of infrastructure to support individuals and families. There are significant gaps in knowledge about the number and location of FRCs in Washington and the capacity, funding, strengths, and challenges of FRCs across the state. Through this study, DCYF seeks to build upon and contribute to efforts to support and learn about FRCs in Washington (including the past and ongoing efforts of the City of Seattle and the Children's Home Society of Washington) and to better understand FRCs' potential role in statewide efforts to support and strengthen families.



What are family resource centers (FRCs)?

FRCs are *place-based organizations* that provide a unified *single point of entry* for anyone in the community. They *provide information, assess needs, make referrals to family services, and offer direct delivery of family services* (by FRC staff or contracted providers). FRCs are *welcoming and strengths-based* and are designed to meet the needs, cultures, and interests of the communities served. Families and family advocates work *in partnership* to develop and pursue families' goals in increasing self-reliance and self-sufficiency.¹

Family resource centers can be stand-alone non-profit organizations, or they can be housed within another organization, like a hospital or the YMCA.

Some family resource centers serve a particular cultural or linguistic community. Others focus on serving communities with common experiences, such as families who are immigrants or refugees, or families living in the same neighborhood or the same rural community. Like families, family resource centers can have many unique formations and specific characteristics.

¹ As of 3-1-2021, [HB 1237](#) Defining Family Resource Centers passed in the Washington House of Representatives and has been introduced in the Washington Senate.