



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Fostering Futures?

The Fostering Futures initiative integrates scientific evidence about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma-informed care (TIC) and resiliency into community practices with a focus on Wisconsin's systems of care. Fostering Futures focuses on identifying and eradicating barriers to implementing TIC, offers strategies for effective implementation of TIC practices and stimulates the creation of policies that advance TIC and subsequently improve the health and well-being of Wisconsin citizens. The overarching goal is to improve health and well-being by developing a statewide, interdisciplinary approach.

Fostering Futures partners with the following groups:

- **Casey Family Programs** supports logistical needs and provides a national context to the trauma-informed care movement
- **Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program** provides funding and learning opportunities
- **National Council for Behavioral Health (NCBH)** provides training, tools and consultation
- **Wilder Research** conducts research on how the initiative changes organizations' cultures and practices
- **Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Trauma Project**

Why is Fostering Futures needed?

Studies show that at least 60% of Wisconsinites report at least one Adverse Childhood Experience, with 14% reporting 4 or more.¹ The cumulative, negative impact of ACEs on our social, emotional and physical well-being has been well documented. Scientific studies link ACEs to increased smoking, substance abuse and suicide as well as life-threatening illnesses and some of the most common causes of death including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer. In short, the widespread occurrence of ACEs in our communities makes it the leading public health challenge of our time.

What is required to participate?

Participation starts with the organization's agreement to become part of the Fostering Futures Learning Community. Each participating organization creates a Core Implementation Team including 7-10 personnel, service recipients and executive leadership. The team meets regularly to develop, implement and track progress toward goals. Over the course of the project, teams complete a series of surveys to help track progress. Teams should plan to be together (virtually or in person) for coaching sessions and webinars. The professional development fee for participating in the Fostering Futures Trauma-Informed Care Learning Community is \$5,000 per year for two years. This fee includes the cost of training sessions, coaching and unlimited access to the NCBH resources. Teams should also plan for the travel costs of attending the three in-person meetings (a total of four days with lunches provided).

How can I learn more?

You may contact staff of Fostering Futures for more information. Director Carol Howard can be reached by telephone at (414) 449-2688 or by e-mail at choward@fosteringfutureswisconsin.org.

For a first-hand account of the work, you may also reach out to participants of the learning community. County teams include: Adams, Barron, Chippewa, Dane, Door, Fond du Lac, Jackson, Kewaunee, Milwaukee CPS, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Sheboygan and St. Croix. A map with county contact information can be found here: children.wi.gov. State agency teams include: Department of Children and Families, Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services – Long Term Support, Department of Health Service – Public Health, Department of Workforce Development, Department of Veterans Affairs and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

¹ <http://wchildrenstrustfund.org/Documents/REVISEDWisconsinACEs.August2012.pdf>