

strengthening families

THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

concrete support in times of need

fact sheet for early care & education program staff

COMPONENTS OF CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

- Child abuse and neglect can be a consequence of family crisis, a parental condition such as substance abuse, or stresses associated with lack of resources

HOW EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAMS BUILD IT

- Offering onsite food pantries and clothing closets
- Giving referrals to specific individuals at service agencies (not just the agencies themselves) and transportation to those agencies, if needed
- Providing immediate assistance and support in the event of an eviction or other emergency
- Supporting the family throughout a crisis
- Linking family members to jobs, job training, transportation, and other means of economic security
- Serving as an access point for health care, child care subsidies, and other services
- Initiating contact or inviting conversation if staff suspect a family problem or emergency

“we all need help sometimes¹”

QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAM STAFF

- How do you currently build concrete support in times of need in your work with children and families?
- What new strategies might you try to build concrete support in times of need?
- What organizational changes would support your capacity to build concrete support in times of need in your work?

Strengthening Families Illinois, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. *Love is Not Enough to Keep Your Family Strong Campaign*. <http://www.keepyourfamilystrong.org>