



**Promising Futures:
Best Practices for Serving Children, Youth, and Parents Experiencing Domestic Violence**

www.PromisingFuturesWithoutViolence.org

Launch—October 25th, 2012

Background

Promising Futures Best Practices for Serving Children, Youth, and Parents Experiencing Domestic Violence, funded by the Division of Family Violence Prevention of the Family and Youth Services Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services, Expanding Services for Children and Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence program—is designed for advocates, domestic violence programs, and others seeking to enhance their services to support healing for children, youth, and their mothers experiencing domestic violence. This resource website was created to provide information on evidence based interventions and promising practices that are trauma informed, developmentally and culturally relevant, and strengthen the mother-child relationship. In addition to this website, Futures is providing technical assistance to four state collations funded under this program, developing national guidelines for children’s programming in local domestic violence programs and developing guidelines for evaluation measures that programs can use to evaluate their work in this area.

Objectives

- 1. Assist domestic violence programs and build their capacity to provide effective interventions and services to children and youth exposed to domestic violence**
- 2. Provide domestic violence programs with information on the wide range of interventions, services, and best practices that domestic violence programs are already using and to assist them in documenting their success.**
- 3. Advance the field towards more programs incorporating evidence based, research informed, and promising practices into their practice.**

Key Activities

All project activities will be informed by input from a multi-disciplinary group of expert advisors. Key deliverables under the overall Expanding Services for Children and Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence project include:

- **A national scan and literature review** of existing evidence based and interventions and promising practices for children and youth exposed to domestic violence and other traumas. This literature review was performed by Dr. Linda Chamberlain, PhD, MPH in partnership with Futures Without Violence. The national scan was conducted through focus groups, interviews and surveys and was implemented by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Mending the Sacred Hoop, Casa de Esperanza, and the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence. The scan included a review of both research and experiential evidence related to services provided in multiple settings for children and youth exposed to domestic violence and other traumas.
- **Develop an online resource and capacity building website** to assist domestic violence programs in enhancing their services for children, youth, and their mothers experiencing domestic



violence. The website includes:

- A searchable database of evidence based interventions and promising practices for serving children and youth exposed to domestic violence
 - Strategies for strengthening program readiness and capacity to deliver developmentally appropriate, trauma informed and effective programming
 - Information and resources on protective factors, resilience, and interventions that strengthen the mother-child bond
 - Guidance on program evaluation and adaptation
 - Testimonials highlighting states and programs doing innovative work
 - Resources and guidance on working with culturally diverse families
 - Training curriculums, research articles, and other tools for advocates
 - Resources for parents & caregivers
- **Develop evaluation measures** to be used by domestic violence programs to support future documentation and evaluation of their work with children, youth and their mothers. The research and evaluation team is led by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.
 - **Develop a framework and national recommendations for children's programs.** Working with a national leadership committee comprised of state coalitions, academics, activists, federal partners and national organizations, Futures Without Violence will produce guidance for local domestic violence programs to assess their current capacity to serve children and youth and offer guidance on enhancing programmatic efforts.
 - **Provide technical assistance and training** to four state coalitions funded under this program. Futures is providing training and TA through webinars, phone conferences, one-to-one problem-solving, and providing peer-peer exchange opportunities.

Outcomes

As a result of the activities completed under this project, domestic violence programs, state/territory coalitions, FVPSA State Administrators and other key FYSB constituents will:

1. Have increased knowledge about the full range of programmatic solutions to effectively serve children and youth in domestic violence programs
2. Have increased ability to self assess their current programming strategies and make improvements accordingly
3. Have easy access to evidence based interventions and research informed strategies for children and youth that are exposed to domestic violence
4. Have opportunities to participate in a national learning community by sharing information, tools and program approaches to serving children and youth
5. Be better positioned to replicate or adapt evidence based approaches for children and youth

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