

Be Strong Parent Café Training Institute Announcement

Overview

In 2007, the Be Strong Parent Café process was created and developed by Strengthening Families Illinois to educate family members/family leaders on the five research-based Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors that keep children safe and families strong. The purpose of Be Strong Parent Café is to provide an environment in which family members/family leaders can build the protective factors through individual deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning. The model is based on the principles of adult learning and family support and builds family member leadership.

Through the efforts of the PA Strengthening Families Leadership Team with funding support from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and facilitated by the Center for Schools and Communities, Pennsylvania has offered the Be Strong Parent Café Training Institutes (PCTI) since 2016 and developed over 40 locally based teams. We will offer four PCTI events in the fall of 2019 to encourage more communities to use the forum for engaging family members/family leaders in learning more about the protective factors that keep their families strong.

Description

The Be Strong Parent Café Institute (PCTI) is a two-day experiential and highly interactive institute that prepares a team of family leaders and providers to convene and implement parent cafés and serve as café leaders and table hosts. By the end of the institute, teams will know the anatomy of a parent café, the philosophical foundations and research underlying parent cafés, how to create an ambiance conducive to maximizing the effectiveness of the parent café process, and how to build on the parent café experience to enhance programs for and with family members/family leaders. Teams will develop a plan for how to complete the first series of three Be Strong Parent Cafés within the next several months. Teams will address anticipated frequency of hosting these cafés and handling responsibilities for operating with fidelity to the model, collecting evaluation forms and continual connection with instruction and technical assistance staff.

Readiness

In order to assess your readiness and begin the planning process for attending the institute and holding cafés after receiving instruction, please complete and return the Team Application/Readiness Checklist.

Pre-PCTI Webinar

A webinar about the Strengthening Families Protective Factors and their relationship to Be Strong Parent Cafes will be offered two weeks prior to the PCTI. All team members are expected to participate.

Costs

There is no fee for participation in the Institute. Each team member will receive manuals and each team will receive a pack of cards that are used in each Be Strong Parent Café. Each team will participate in follow-up implementation support from certified instructor technical assistants.

Lodging

Lodging will be provided for those who must travel 50 or more miles to the event and wish to stay over. The Center for Schools and Communities will make these lodging arrangements at the event location for you. Please do not call the hotel to make reservations.

Meals

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided on each day of the institute. Other costs including travel and meals outside of the institute are the team responsibility.

Family Reimbursement and Honorarium

Upon submission of the required form with receipts, CSC will reimburse family members of the team for mileage (in their car), childcare and evening meal. Family members will also be offered an honorarium for each day to acknowledge their contributions to the team efforts and time commitment.

Questions

If you have any questions about the Be Strong Parent Café model or would like to discuss your readiness to participate, please contact Rijelle Kraft at 717-763-1661 x221 or rkraft@csc.csiu.org.

If you have questions about lodging or stipends, please contact Kimberly Taylor Carmo at 717-763-1661 x 215 or ktcarmo@csc.csiu.org.

This professional development opportunity is delivered through a partnership among the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning and the PA Strengthening Families Leadership Team and is facilitated by the Center for Schools and Communities.