

MISSION STATEMENT

SHIELDS for families is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to developing, delivering, and evaluating culturally sensitive, comprehensive service models that empower and advocate for high-risk families for over 20 years.

HISTORY

SHIELDS was formed in 1987 in response to high incidence of infants born prenatally exposed to drugs at Martin Luther King Hospital in South Central Los Angeles.

SHIELDS began providing services to this unique population and has since grown to provide over 30 comprehensive, family-centered, wrap-around programs addressing issues facing high-risk families in South LA.



believing, building, becoming

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We believe that with education, access to appropriate services and caring guidance, families can rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community, nurturing parents and achieve all of their dreams.

Facebook
www.facebook.com/shields4family

Twitter
www.twitter.com/SHIELDS4Family

Blog
www.shieldsforfamilies.blogspot.com

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/company/shields-for-families

SHIELDS for Families is an equal opportunity service provider that does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief, citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, or participation in any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

www.shieldsforfamilies.org

ACT (Achieving Change Together) Program: Partnerships for Families (PFF)



The ACT (Achieving Change Together)/Partnerships for Families (PFF) program is a collaborative child abuse prevention program that provides one-stop, comprehensive, services targeted for pregnant women and high-risk families with children age five years or younger who are at risk for child maltreatment in the Watts and Compton communities.





First 5 LA's PFF Initiative has surfaced as one of Los Angeles County's most ambitious undertakings ever for preventing the abuse and neglect of children. Its vision for an innovative, large-scale, systematic change has called for a complex implementation plan that utilizes the strengths of collaborating nonprofit organizations that are committed to serving high risk pregnant women and high risk families that are referred by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. In Spa 6, SHIELDS is the lead agency for the ACT/PFF program. Designed to address the specific needs of pregnant women and families with children age five years or younger, ACT provides center and home-based **case management, and child development services. In addition, on site groups in parenting, domestic violence, fatherhood and anger management are provided.**

Partnerships for Families (PFF) is a collaborative child abuse prevention program designed to address the needs of pregnant women and families with children age five years or younger who are at risk for child maltreatment in Los Angeles County.



In conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services, our joint goal is the prevention of child maltreatment by ensuring that families live in physically and emotionally safe environments, while helping to build upon and support the strengths in the community.

The PFF collaborative in the Watts/Compton area is called Achieving Change Together (ACT) and encompasses five community based organizations, with SHIELDS serving as the lead agency. ACT utilizes a unique model of co-location, with all partner staff housed at one site in the community. The program provides home and center-based services such as **parent education, emergency funding for household stabilization, child development assessments and support, health and nutrition education and household management as well as linkage services including substance abuse treatment, mental health and domestic violence services,**

and housing assistance to DCFS referred clients and high risk pregnant women from Watts and Compton. A specific Fatherhood program is also offered for husbands, significant others and males in the community, to support their efforts to become strong male role models for their children. Ultimately, the sum of such efforts is to prevent clients from being re-referred to DCFS for incidents of child maltreatment and neglect.

First 5 LA also provided PFF funding to assist partner agencies build capacity necessary to manage the mitigating factors that have been seen to contribute to child abuse and neglect. This has included training for staff, community education, vocational education and training, and external capacity building activities. The ACT program took advantage of this unique funding resource to partner with the Masters of Social Work Program at California State University Dominguez Hills in order to increase the number of trained professionals in the SPA 6 community; with the first cohort of 10 graduating this past May. In addition, through external capacity building, SHIELDS was able to purchase an office building in the community to support long term sustainability of the agency.



Program Highlights

- PFF collaborative includes the Institute for Maximum Human Potential, Para Los Ninos, Community Coalition, and Drew Child Development.
- The ACT program has a 7.8% re-referral rate (clients who received another DCFS hotline call) versus a 23.2% re-referral rate for clients who did not enroll in ACT services.
- Since implementation, the ACT program has serviced 550 clients: 92 pregnant clients and 458 families referred from DCFS.
- On average, 76% of ACT families terminate the program after successfully achieving their program goals.

