

Situation: In Missouri, 90 of 114 counties identified building strong families as a local program priority. University Outreach and Extension responded with the Building Strong Families Program. The program helps families build strengths, face challenges, and make choices; covers 13 topics; and uses hands-on activities to involve participants.

Building Strong Families

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
			Initial	Intermediate	Long Term
<p>What we invest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus and field faculty (specialists and assistants; HES, 4-H and Ag; MU and LU) • Community partners and collaborators • Facilities • Equipment and supplies • Funds, grants, and fees 	<p>What we do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer BSF community programs. • Work with 4-H, HES, and agency facilitators to create parallel curriculum for children and youth. • Work with Adult Literacy Specialist to lower the reading level of materials. • Update curriculum materials. • Market program nationally. • Provide technical and evaluation support to facilitators. • Provide BSF facilitator training. • Continue relationship with Nebraska Extension. 	<p>Who we reach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families (adults and children) • Facilitators • Agencies 	<p>Initial</p> <p>For Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members use at least one suggestion to build their family strengths. • Family members use at least one idea to set up meaningful time with their children or with each other. • Family members use at least one idea to improve their communication with each other. <p>For Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitators use ideas from the training to gain stronger facilitation and teaching skills (better communication skills; increased confidence levels; more teaching opportunities; better understanding of experiential learning). 	<p>Intermediate</p> <p>For Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members' relationships improve. • Families work together to support each other's needs. • Families accomplish goals they have set. <p>For Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitators work more effectively with audiences. • Facilitators support each other within a statewide/nationwide BSF network. • Additional facilitators are trained in Missouri and nationwide. 	<p>Long Term</p> <p>For Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families thrive and contribute to community well being. <p>For Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are stronger and contribute to their communities.
			<p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participants learn better when treated as co-learners.</i> • <i>Every family has at least one strength to build on.</i> • <i>Hands-on activities help participants remember what they have learned, so they are more likely to use the information and skills.</i> • <i>Community-based facilitators can make a greater impact on families than those facilitators outside the community.</i> <p>External Factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Poverty</i> • <i>Work</i> • <i>Economy</i> • <i>Family structure</i> 		