



Support for Family Leadership Development in US territories

Through funding provided by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Family Voices National Center for Family Professional Partnerships (NCFPP) is supporting the expansion of opportunities for families of children with special health needs (CSHCN) in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and other territories affected by the Zika virus, to be better informed and able to participate in their child's health care. This project provides peer support, training, resources, and technical assistance to aid the development of family-led organizations to help families gain valuable information and play a critical role in their child and families' health care. Family Voices is connecting and collaborating with Title V MCH programs as well as Department of Health programs, University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) programs, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and other organizations in the territories to support their capacity to engage families of CSHCN and to assist family organizations to create networks and strategies to partner with professionals in order to better serve families who have been exposed to or affected by the Zika virus, or are experiencing other special health care needs.

NCFPP Support to the Territories includes:

- ✓ **Webinars:** "Atencion Centrada en la Familia," presented to Puerto Rico's funded family project staff, introduced concepts of family engagement and family-centered care for health providers.
- ✓ **Family Training Curriculum Support:** NCFPP provides continuous technical assistance to PR grantees in the development of Family Engagement training for PR families and providers who are affected by, or who treat Zika-related cases, respectively.
- ✓ **Serving as Family Faculty on the AAP's Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes):** A tele-mentoring model to increase clinical expertise of pediatric clinicians, in the context of a Medical Home, to support infants and families affected by the Zika virus.
- ✓ **Distribution of Zika and other educational resources:** NCFPP disseminates Zika resources, literature, and information from the CDC, AAP, NCBDDD, and others to the territories.
- ✓ **Scholarships to attend to the Family Voices Family Leadership conference, "Weaving a Tapestry of Strength through Diversity."** Family leaders from Puerto Rico and American Samoa attended the Family Voices 25th Anniversary celebration and Family Leadership Conference in DC, in November 2017.
- ✓ **Supported attendance at Building Partnerships Workshops.** Family leaders from the territories who attended the Family Voices conference participated in the NCFPP training to increase systems-level collaboration and family engagement.
- ✓ **Family Voices conference participants contributed funds and goods** to assist families in US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria!