

# Community Resource Centers

## What are Community Resource Centers?

Community Resource Centers (CRCs) are **centralized community access points** for individuals and families to seek support. Each center, **designed by and for the community** with lived expertise involved at each stage, provides **relationship-based, culturally responsive programming**, drawing on local connections and supports through partner agencies. This includes direct services, concrete supports, and service navigation. CRCs is an umbrella term that includes Community Schools and Community Hubs alongside Family Resource Centers.

## Serving Children and Families

CRCs serve as welcoming hubs of community services and offer opportunities to strengthen families. They are rooted in family support and research-based Strengthening Families Protective Factors<sup>1</sup>. CRCs most commonly offer services around:



- Parenting support
- Access to resources
- Child development activities
- Parent leadership development

## Adaptable to Community Needs

CRCs offer common services and at the same time are adaptable to community needs. By structurally positioning community members and those with lived expertise to lead in identifying and responding to community needs, each resource center provides services to address community specific gaps and barriers. There are over 3,000 CRCs in 38 states, serving 2 million people annually<sup>2</sup>.

## Impact and Outcomes

Using a multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered approach, CRCs have been shown to impact the following areas<sup>3</sup>:

### **Reductions:**

- 50% reduction of out of home placements
- 26% lower rates of community-level child abuse investigations
- Disparities, especially in BIPOC communities

### **Increases in:**

- Economic self-sufficiency
- Health
- Social support
- Children's educational success
- Family functioning and resiliency

## A CRC Network in Minnesota

Building on the work of Community Hubs and Community Schools, 5 counties are currently engaged in community assessment and implementation, with the intention of following Scott County's lead and implementing Family Resource Centers.

In collaboration with the Sauer Family Foundation and Casey Family Programs, AMC has prioritized establishing a **network of centers throughout Minnesota** that work together to ensure coordinated, quality support for families. The network responds to the needs of its members while acting as the backbone entity that assures compliance with governmental and community expectations.<sup>4</sup>



## Testimonies

"I went to a Family Resource Center because I needed help. I was homeless and a single dad. They didn't judge me they just helped me." - **Parent, FRC Participant**

"Family Resource Centers are family-based, community specific solutions to the everyday problems that families face. Scott County families, residents, and taxpayers all benefit from this work that involves and assists families to learn, grow, and address problems with a minimum of government intervention." - **Scott County Commissioner Barb Weckman Brekke**

"Family Resource Centers are designed to support communities and East Central is looking forward to working collaboratively to bring this opportunity to Pine County." - **Stefanie Youngerberg, East Central School Superintendent**

## Your Support



Please support Community Resource Center Investments in HF 2910/SF 2890

## Want to learn more about the CRCs and their impact on Minnesota families?

Contact Angie Thies, AMC Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst

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<sup>1</sup> "[About Strengthening Families™ and the Protective Factors Framework](#)," Center for the Study of Social Projects, November 2018.

<sup>2</sup> "[What is a Family Resource Center?](#)", National Family Support Network.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> [National Family Support Network](#).