Parent Education in North Dakota
2017-2018

Public Value Statement:
Child abuse prevention is cost effective both from the standpoint of the institutional costs as well as the human
toll and later life costs to society. $1 spent on early childhood programming saves $10-$16 dollars in prison,
police, welfare and other services. (Art Rolnick – former federal reserve)

The Situation
Parent education and support is key to developing
strong parent-child relations. Some families struggle
with abuse and require ongoing educational support. A
partnership between the NDSU Extension and the ND
Department of Human Services-Children and Family
Services provides a system of parent education
delivery for each of the seven regions in the state. The
CBCAP grant, funds specific courses to address these
needs.

Child Abuse and Neglect (FFY 2017):
• 15,676 reports of suspected child abuse and
neglect were received in 2017.
• During FFY 2017, a total of 7,547 full assessments
were completed.
• A decision of “Services Required” was made in
15% (n=1,131) of the 7,547 full assessments.
These 1,131 assessments represent 1,981 children
who were victims of child abuse and neglect and
1,450 caregivers who were the subjects of these
assessments.

Data is from the DHS FRAME system and the FFY 2017
NCANDS report.

Extension Response
NDSU Extension works in partnership with the ND
Department of Human Services to provide prevention
education programs that address child abuse and
neglect. NDSU Extension collaborates with schools,
social services, non-profits and local agencies to
develop and implement programs. These programs
target primary prevention education work at the
community level while also supporting and teaming as
requested, to support the intervention work of social
service agencies. Parents obtain knowledge and skills
to create safe and stable, and nurturing relationships
with their children.

From October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018, five
(Regions 4 and 5 were without coordinators) parent
and family resource centers participating in the ND
Parent Education Network provided 4,612 parents and
other adults (some returning for multiple sessions) with
the knowledge and skills to create healthy
relationships with their children. A total of 1,865 of
direct parent education and support were provided in
the form of classes and support sessions.

Impacts
• 88% indicate the program helped them improve
their parenting skills.
• 97% say the presenter stimulated them to think
about how to use the information.
• 93% indicate they are able to soothe their children
when they are upset.
• 94% say they are happy being with their child.

Feedback
• “We discussed the class topic of bullying with our
kids at our first family meeting.”
• A parent demonstrated a course tool/skill without
being prompted!
• “This was wonderful and encouraging for us.” “It
will be forever helpful.”

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Resource Link
https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pen