

CYFAR is the Cooperative Extension System response to pervasive conditions in America that place children and their families at risk for not meeting basic physical and social needs and not building basic competencies necessary for successful participation in childhood, adolescence, and adult life.

The statewide goal of Iowa's Children, Youth, and Families At Risk project, CYFAR, is to improve the ability of at-risk families to rear children who become healthy, contributing citizens and to improve the well-being of children, youth, and families.

Through Iowa State University Extension, CYFAR makes available educational materials and opportunities in the form of publications, videos, satellite conferences, inservices, and a site on the World Wide Web.



You can find the Web site at www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/families/cyfar/

It takes a village . . .

Parents are children's first and best caregivers. But they need support from friends, relatives, churches, employers, and the community to succeed. The relationships between children, parents, and the community often are depicted as concentric circles with the child at the center. The circles closest to the child have the greatest influence on well-being—whether positive or negative. The outermost circles have indirect, but still powerful, effects on children and parents.



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Helping you become your best.

. . . and justice for all

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part of Iowa's Children, Youth, and Families at Risk project, CYFAR

strengthening families with children living in at-risk environments

CYF@R

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Visit the CYF@R Web site

At the CYFAR Web site, you'll find information about or access to the following.

● Building Communities with Strong Families

Healthy human development requires strong, nurturing families who are supported by their community. Efforts at building community help support families by developing and sustaining strong relationships, increasing community decision making, and improving the ability to collaborate.

These materials and accompanying videotape are designed for communities wanting to start new efforts and for those who wish to strengthen what they are already doing. They serve as a guide for policy making and for orienting professionals and citizens to community building.

- Collaboration and Citizen Participation
- Community Assessment and Mobilization
- Community Empowerment Legislation and Resources

This Web site contains information about the community empowerment legislation, emergency rules, the Iowa Empowerment Board, technical assistance, and marketing communication. The site is updated frequently.

Additional resources are available for communities dealing with the new Community Empowerment legislation. Some are direct links; others are information for accessing resources or training opportunities.

● Community Projects

Two targeted community projects are supported through CYFAR: 1) The Connecting Link in Dubuque and 2) Family TIES in Union County. Both are community-based, collaborative initiatives that provide family support and education that promote positive outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities.

- Early Childhood and Parent Education Resources
- Electronic Connectivity

ISU Extension, through the CYFAR project, provided funding for computer hardware, software, installation, monthly connectivity fees, and training in three counties so program staff and community members could access information resources on the Internet. The service has not only facilitated sharing, innovation, and communication, but also has provided the public opportunities to develop marketable computer skills.

Iowa's State Strengthening Project:
*strengthening community programs
for Children, Youth & Families at Risk*

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visit our website at:
<http://www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/families/cyfar>
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● Exploring the State of Poverty

The ROWEL Simulation is an effective tool for promoting awareness of economic diversity. The simulation has been used throughout Iowa to sensitize others about the realities of living in poverty. A National Satellite Video Conference, broadcast November 17, 1998, is featured. Information about planning a simulation also is provided.

- Grant Writing
- Program Outcome Evaluation
- CYFERNet

Children, Youth, and Families Education and Research Network (CYFERNet) provides practical, research-based information on parenting; child care; collaborations; research reports; statistics and demographics; funding opportunities and strategies; bibliographies and resources; and links to other Internet-based resources. Visit CYFERNet and the national networks at:

CYFERNet	www.cyfernet.org/
Child Care	www.nncc.org/
Health	www.nnh.org/
Family Resiliency	www.nnfr.org/
Collaboration	crs.uvm.edu/nnco/
Science & Technology	www.uidaho.edu/ag/4-h/nnst/

