



[www.vitalvillage.org](http://www.vitalvillage.org)  
[vitalvillage@bmc.org](mailto:vitalvillage@bmc.org)



2,000+

Individual Network Members

4,500+

Hours of volunteerism  
across Network Members.

Vital Village is a network of residents and organizations committed to maximizing child, family, and community wellbeing. Since 2010, Vital Village has fostered partnerships between residents and organizations aimed at improving the capacity of three Boston communities to promote child wellbeing and prevent early life adversities. Our community of practice mobilizes cross-sector collaborations, encourages collective learning, and cultivates stronger connections between community residents and community-based organizations to co-design community systems improvement efforts. We aim to pioneer a sustainable approach to setting-level improvements that enhance family and community protective factors and ultimately promote optimal wellbeing.

## 1 COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Our Service Learning & Leadership Model (Credit for Service) links skill-building and volunteerism through a service learning commitment by investing in the leadership for community residents, leveraging existing organizational partnerships, which rapidly scales and spreads innovations to improve community wellbeing. 96% of Network members believe we have been successful in empowering members through leadership development and advocacy.

HIGHLIGHT

Vital Village Network hosts bi-annual lactation education trainings which reaches one of our focus areas of **promoting family strengths and social connections during the preconception and prenatal period**. Those who receive scholarships to attend the training build their counseling and lactation management skills while also improving access to breastfeeding education and counseling by completing 1000+ hours of volunteerism at 10 free, drop-in breastfeeding groups across Boston's neighborhoods.

“Bringing together an incredibly dedicated, passionate, knowledgeable, diverse and creative group of community supporters.”



100+

Active Partner Organizations

84.4%

Described their involvement in the Network as active within the last two years



“Lifting up voices of families and community resident leaders and valuing the creativity and good work of community organizations. Providing support and platforms for these organizations to grow and learn and share ideas.”

## 2 COLLABORATIVE IN DESIGN

We support continuous improvement of local efforts by using quality improvement tools, community-based participatory methods, and human-centered design approaches. Using an equity lens, building institutional capacity prioritizes co-design, collaborative leadership, and shared decision-making in community partnerships, a key factor in sustainability.

HIGHLIGHT

Vital Village Network has played a key role in the research, development, and implementation of Project STRIVE. Project Supportive Trauma Interventions for Educators (STRIVE) is an evidence-informed model led by Child Witness to Violence Project (CWTVP) that helps schools and early education systems of care increase their capacity to identify, respond to, and optimally support the unique needs of young children who have been impacted by trauma exposure. STRIVE is an example of **innovations in early childhood education**. This innovation has trained over 100 teachers across 10 schools, reaching an estimated 2,000 students.

## 3 CROSS-SECTOR ALIGNMENT

In order to maximize child, family and community wellbeing, Vital Village uses a trauma-informed lens to support cross-sector alignment among diverse partners, building trusting relationships so that collaborative efforts can be meaningful and have the greatest impact.

HIGHLIGHT

Village Vital Signs is a publicly available community data dashboard that leverages multiple sources of data to track benchmarks of child wellbeing with respect to neighborhood opportunity structures. Uniting education, health, public health, crime, childcare, and engagement data promotes cross-sector alignment and collaboration by visually linking opportunity structures, systems, and outcomes in geographic areas. Data is used in **peer-to-peer and systems-level to advocacy** to address social and material hardships.

“Convening a consistent space for organizations to build, connect and collaborate.”

# 4 VITAL VILLAGE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The Vital Village Research Team from Boston Medical Center conducts rigorous multi-site clinical research, population health research, and program evaluation to better understand strategies to improve child health, development, and wellbeing. In the fall of 2018 Vital Village launched the C-K-READY study.

The C-K-READY study is the first multi-site, cluster randomized controlled trial evaluating the impact of the *CenteringParenting* intervention on kindergarten readiness, as measured by expressive and receptive language and vocabulary at 24 months of age. *CenteringParenting*, a program of the Centering Healthcare Institute, includes written materials and training in group facilitation for providers. *CenteringParenting* aims to improve health and developmental outcomes for children within a group-based model of routine well-child care. This bundled intervention aims to support healthy parent-child interactions through experiential learning within a group well-child visit model. The intervention reduces social isolation and creates a community of support for caregivers, as well as utilizes a positive parenting approach to empowering parents with knowledge and skills to support child development.

Project C-K-READY will partner with 10 clinical practices across the United States that are planning to implement *CenteringParenting*. All participating sites will be randomized to either an *Early Implementation of CenteringParenting* or a *Delayed Implementation of CenteringParenting* (and will start approximately 2-3 months later). We will recruit 60 female parents from each site and parents at Early Implementation sites will participate in *CenteringParenting* and parents from Delayed sites will receive routine individual well-child care.

C-K  READY



This study offers the opportunity to make a significant contribution to our understanding of how primary care interventions may positively impact developmental and behavioral trajectory of children ages 0 to 2 years, and ultimately improve our ability to prevent developmental delays and improve school readiness.

600

Maternal-Child Dyads  
will be recruited

English and Spanish-speaking  
parents recruited

10 CLINICAL SITES



*C-K-READY is the first randomized controlled trial study to evaluate impact of CenteringParenting on child outcomes between 0- 24 months of age.*

*We will look at school readiness outcomes such as language acquisition and development because we know that school readiness in toddlerhood predicts academic achievement in adolescence and into adulthood.*

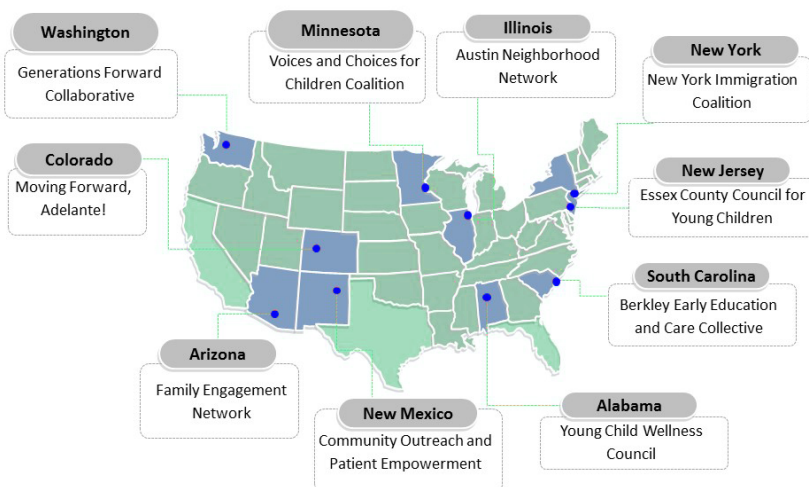
# 5 NETWORKS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILD WELLBEING

Launched in 2016, **Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW)** aims to build the capacity of local communities and coalitions working to promote child wellbeing and align early childhood systems of care and education by using a trauma-informed lens to advance equity.



NOW Learning  
Community Participants  
and Forum members:

- **Connect with and learn** from other community coalitions, local leaders, and stakeholders who are leading exciting work to improve the health of children and families
- **Understand the impact of childhood adversity and adverse community environments** on wellbeing
- **Share examples of local innovations and strategies** from their own communities
- **Build local community capacity in key levers of community change**, including how to mobilize broader community engagement, foster authentic community leadership, and use data and storytelling tools to measure progress
- **Access a wide range of resources and tools** to strengthen your efforts



## NOW LEARNING COMMUNITY

10 selected communities over 18 months to build essential knowledge, skills and tools to scale and sustain equitable transformation.

## NOW INNOVATION FORUM

A national network of peer communities working to promote child wellbeing and prevent early childhood adversities.

Learn more at:  
<https://www.networksofopportunity.org/learning-community>

