

Connecting Families to Community Resources Basic Needs Referral Resource Template

Connecting Families to Community Resources

Resources and services are often available in the local community to help families with basic needs such as food, housing, utilities, and temporary financial assistance. The following template is a tool for practices to begin identifying the local resources that are available in their local community, for making family referrals.

The template includes example questions that can be asked, when discussing basic needs with families.

When completing the template, practices can prioritize which categories to complete, based on their local community and practice needs.

Links to national and state resources are provided to help assist with finding local resources. These resources may not be available in every community.

Please contact cocp@aap.org with questions, or to provide feedback about this template.

Food Security	
Example Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you ever have a time when you don't have enough food? • Do you have WIC? Do you have Food stamps? • Do you need help in getting food by the end of the month? • In the last year, did the food you bought just not last and you didn't have money to get more? 	
Your Local Resources	National and State Resources
<i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	
School Resources:	State WIC contacts
	SNAP local office locator
	SNAP eligibility
	National School Lunch Program Application
	Free Summer Meals Site Locator
Food Bank(s):	Healthy Foodbank Hub/Foodbank Locator
	Child and Adult Care Food Program
	FRAC Child Nutrition Guidance and Meal Sites by State

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Health Insurance	
Example Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does your health insurance cover your children’s needs? • Do you need help with the cost of prescriptions or other medical needs? • Do you have trouble getting to doctor’s appointments because of lack of transportation? 	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	State by State Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program Information
	Healthcare.gov
Housing and Utilities	
Example Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your housing ever a problem for you? • Do you think you are at risk of being homeless? • Do you ever have trouble paying your electric/ heat/ telephone bill? 	
Your local resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	US Department of Housing and Urban Development Resource Locator Includes information to apply for public housing, affordable housing and identify state homeless resources.
	National Coalition for the Homeless Directory of state homeless advocacy and service organizations
	The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Application Federal energy assistance program assists low-income households with heating/energy assistance.
	States information about rent and mortgage payments
Employment Assistance	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources

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Basic Needs Referral Resource Template**

	Benefits.gov Official benefits website of the U.S. government includes information for citizens to identify benefits that they may be eligible to receive, and application information.
	Community Action Agencies Across America (State by state network of Community Agencies that serve low-income and poor. Services may include help with emergency assistance, food and nutrition, Adult Basic education and employment, housing, money management, and transportation.
	US Department of Labor State Unemployment Insurance Benefits
Education and Child Care	
Example Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is your child doing in school? • Is he/she getting the help to learn what he/she needs? • Is your child in Head Start, preschool, or other early childhood enrichment? • Does your child have a learning disability or trouble in school? 	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	Early Head Start and Head Start Program Locator National Center for Homeless Education Helpline Assistance for homeless families with issues including school enrollment, transportation and other school-related issues.
	YMCA (out of school education programs may be available)
	Healthy Child Care America

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Basic Needs Referral Resource Template**

	Family Voices (special health care needs/disabilities)
	National Center for Learning Disabilities (Includes parent advocacy and support resources)
	Federal Student Aid (Student Loan Forgiveness/Deferrment)
Substance Use and Mental Health	
<p>Example Questions</p> <p>Do you often feel under extreme stress?</p> <p>In the past month, have you often felt down, depressed, or hopeless?</p> <p>In the past month, have you felt very little interest or pleasure in things you used to enjoy?</p> <p>Do you or does anyone else in your home have a problem with alcohol?</p> <p>In the past year, have you felt the need to cut back on drinking or drug use?</p>	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator 1-800-662-HELP (4357) Free 24/7 hotline for individuals and family members facing substance abuse and mental health issues. English and Spanish language.
	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
	National Disability Rights Network
Violence Prevention/Bullying/Personal Safety	
<p>Example Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there persons in your family dealing with mental health issues? • Do you (and all family members) feel safe in your home? • Is your child subject to bullying at school because s/he can't afford what other children have? • Do you sometimes find you need to hit/spank your child? 	

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Legal Issues	
Example Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your family need a lawyer to help with problems with your landlord, taxes, loans, immigration, or guardianship? 	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
	PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center
	National School Climate Center
Immigration	
Example Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your family have any legal concerns related to immigration, such as fear of being deported or difficulty getting the services your family needs? 	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	State Legal Resources for Immigrant Children and Families State by state directory of organizations that provide legal assistance to immigrant families.
	National Immigration Law Center education resources for immigrants about public benefits and immigration status issues
Literacy	
Example Questions	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a high school degree? • Do you read to your child every night? • How happy are you with how you read? 	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	Reach Out and Read Program Finder
	YMCA (literacy programs may be available for children and adults)
	Community Action Agencies Across America (state by state agencies may provide support with Adult Basic Education, job training and employment)
Substance Use and Mental Health	
Example Questions Do you often feel under extreme stress? In the past month, have you often felt down, depressed, or hopeless? In the past month, have you felt very little interest or pleasure in things you used to enjoy? Do you or does anyone else in your home have a problem with alcohol? In the past year, have you felt the need to cut back on drinking or drug use?	
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Injury and Illness Prevention	
Your Local Resources	National and State Resources

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<i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	
	Healthy Child Care America Safe Sleep Campaign information and materials for families.
	American Lung Association State Tobacco Cessation Coverage information and national quit line.
	Safe Kids Coalition State coalitions hold safety events including car seat checkups community events, educational workshops and sport safety clinics.
	Cribs For Kids State partner network provide safe sleep education and many provide portable cribs to those who qualify.
Additional Resources	
Your Local Resources <i>(add your local resources and helpful notes/comments)</i>	National and State Resources
	United Way 211 Free national telephone service that helps identify health and human services.
	Community Action Agencies Across America (State by state network of Community Agencies that serve low-income and poor. Services may include help with emergency assistance, food and nutrition, Adult Basic education and employment, housing, money management, and transportation.
	State Public Health Departments
	National Diaper Bank Network