



IMPACT 2025

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

Family Stability and Vitality

Strengthening Families, Empowering Communities

Family stability and vitality are the cornerstones of thriving communities. In 2024, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Extension programs across the nation continued to provide essential education and resources, fostering resilience, financial security, and overall well-being for families. Through innovative programs, dedicated partnerships, and a commitment to community engagement, FCS professionals reached thousands of individuals, equipping them with the tools to navigate life's challenges successfully.

Making a Difference Across the Nation

Throughout the past year, FCS Extension professionals implemented **over 100 programs** focused on family stability and vitality. These initiatives empowered **more than 93,915 individuals in-person and 358,206 virtually**, including parents, caregivers, and children, with skills to strengthen family relationships, enhance financial literacy, and improve overall well-being. Many programs specifically addressed crucial areas such as stress management, parenting education, family financial planning, and intergenerational communication.

- Strengthening Parent-Child Relationships: Programs like *Parents Forever* in **Indiana** and *Strengthening Families* in **Colorado** provided parents with research-based strategies to foster strong bonds with their children. Collectively, these programs reached **852 parents and 1,120 children**, equipping families with tools to navigate transitions, improve communication, and create a supportive home environment.

- Financial Literacy and Estate Planning: Programs such as *Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?* in **Kansas** helped individuals and families understand the importance of planning for asset distribution and managing family legacies. By addressing financial planning topics, these initiatives educated **205 participants** on responsible financial decision-making and reducing family conflict over inheritance.
- Engaging Families Through Interactive Learning: Programs like *Bonding Thru Board Games* in **Kansas** used innovative, interactive activities to strengthen family communication and problem-solving skills. **756 participants** engaged in these sessions in-person and online, which emphasized cooperation, decision-making, and relationship building.
- Child Development Programs: **Kentucky** FCS Extension school readiness programs provide parents/caregivers with resources to engage children in learning activities through play to enhance future cognitive skills. These programs provided **9,875 children and 13,913 families** with kindergarten readiness skills in-person and **149,364** virtually.



81% of participants reported that they intended to implement changes at home to start spending more time together as a family. - Bonding Thru Board Games Participant



Collaborations That Strengthen Communities

FCS professionals collaborated with **over 1,300 community partners**, including schools, faith-based organizations, libraries, and local nonprofits, to expand the reach and impact of these initiatives. These partnerships were instrumental in increasing access to educational opportunities, reinforcing community support networks, and leveraging resources for sustainable program growth.

Some notable collaborations include:

- Local elementary and high schools working with Extension educators to integrate family stability lessons into their curriculum.
- Public libraries and religious organizations hosting estate planning workshops to facilitate critical discussions about family financial security.
- Healthcare providers and social service agencies referring families to parenting and wellness programs.



¡Salir Adelante! helped us connect with families we haven't been able to connect with. Iowa School Principal



Key Program Outcomes and Impact

The diverse range of family stability and vitality programs offered in 2024 resulted in significant, measurable impacts, including:

- **Enhanced Family Relationships:** **85% of participants** in parenting and relationship programs reported improved communication and conflict-resolution skills.
- **Increased Financial Confidence:** **75% of participants** in estate planning and financial literacy programs felt more prepared to make informed financial decisions.
- **Greater Community Engagement:** More than **60% of programs** included collaborative efforts with community organizations, strengthening local support systems.

Moreover, many participants shared personal success stories, highlighting how these programs helped them navigate major life transitions, reduce stress, and foster healthier family dynamics.

Building a Stronger Future

As families continue to face economic and social challenges, FCS Extension remains committed to providing evidence-based education that fosters resilience, financial security, and overall well-being. By expanding community partnerships, utilizing innovative teaching methods, and adapting to the evolving needs of families, Extension professionals will continue to empower individuals and strengthen communities for years to come.

This report was compiled by Lora Pullin, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, Public Affairs Committee members, Dylan Gentry, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and Christine Zellers, NEAFCS Vice President Public Affairs. For more information, email zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in the areas of: Childhood Obesity Prevention; Community Health and Wellness; Diabetes Prevention and Management; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children's Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life. NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)