MISSION & VISION

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) works in partnership with communities to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. Since 1989, we have helped to advance multi-generational literacy and learning opportunities nationwide. Our bold future includes our 60x30 Vision, which is to establish coordinated and aligned Family Learning Systems, built with and for families, in 60 communities by the year 2030. We believe that if we realize this vision, we will be contributing to more equitable and thriving communities.

NCFL’S EQUITY PRINCIPLES FOR ENTERING COMMUNITIES

Entering a community without investing in the proper community leadership and infrastructure can perpetuate an inequitable system that assumes services are needed and wanted. NCFL envisions a model of care that centers families and people with lived experience, provides high-quality programming, advances equity, and builds capacity. NCFL embraces an EquityXDesign approach which identifies individuals and families in communities as designers. Individuals and families most impacted by the challenges within a community, should and must, be critical to proposing and enacting solutions to the inequities that are perpetuated across current systems. EquityXDesign applies design thinking methodologies and is a framework aimed to make explicit many implicit biases found in traditional systems.

NCFL is committed to:

- **Fostering community leadership and building capacity**
  
  We want those most impacted by education issues and policies to be centered as experts in determining the solutions. When we enter a community, we learn from and engage with families, professionals, and other community stakeholders as key decision-makers.

- **Addressing issues of educational inequities**
  
  NCFL is committed to following families’ lead as they identify issues relevant to their community through design thinking, root-cause analysis and community investigation tools like empathy interviews and community meetings. A redesign process sees process as product. In order to create a more equitable community, it is critical to design for that on the frontend. It recognizes how inequities are grounded in policies and practices that have impacted people of color and traditionally underserved communities.

- **Working towards systems change**
  
  Communities that are supported and trusted have the power to create sustainable change by collectively working to remove barriers to family success, including but not limited to increased programming, wraparound supports, laws, policies, regulations, and practices.

- **Sharing power and decision making**
  
  As multiple stakeholders come to a collective space, it’s important to ensure people most impacted by barriers and challenges can share the space in a way that honors all community members.
Prioritizing Relationships

Safe and engaging spaces are needed in addressing educational and economic challenges. We will foster community by building solidarity and learning about common and personal experiences, investing time in partnership development, and providing mixed-methods of engagement.

Practicing inclusivity

It’s important to remove all barriers to access and engagement to truly achieve equity. Inclusive design practices raise the voice of those furthest from opportunity, strengthens relationships across differences, rebalances power dynamics, and recreates spaces for advancing equity outcomes. NCFL creates space to facilitate childcare, transportation, language justice, trauma-informed facilitation, and retribution/payment for knowledge and expertise.

NCFL’S PROCESS

**Partnership Development**
- Meet 1:1 with community stakeholders
- Host focus groups and community conversations
- Build a partner list with three distinct groups: professionals, people with lived experience, and influencers

**Building the Conditions for Equity**
- Develop evaluation tools
- Continue to build strategic connections
- Recruit individuals and organizations to be part of a collaborative body
- Host convenings to foster community

**Community Exploration and Assessment**
- Coalition convenings to explore educational inequities
- Community-driven needs assessment

**SOURCES**


