



Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc.

Institute for Community Collaborative Studies: Pathways to Child Abuse Prevention

» About

Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc. (IFR) serves as lead agency to the Chicano/Latino Family Resource System (FRS) established in 1996 as a coordinated system of family support and preservation for Chicano/Latino (C/L) families in the Mission District and citywide who are at-risk or involved with the child welfare system. The collaboration continues the experience, expertise and commitment of IFR, Mission Neighborhood Center (MNC), La Raza Community Resource Center (LRCRC), and Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) to ensure that residents have access to coordinated and complementary services. The FRS partners bring a long history of collaborative participation and leadership to address issues that impact the health and well-being of families, working as leaders in the areas of cultural competence, service delivery, immigration, and social justice.

» Mission

“The mission of Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc. (IFR) is to promote and enhance the health and well-being of Chicanos/Latinos and multicultural/multiracial youth”.

» Programs & Services

- **Clinical Mentoring Program**
- **La Cultura Cura Youth Program**
- **Latino AIDS Education & Prevention Program**
- **Early Intervention & School-Based Program**
- **La Clinica Mano a Mano Outpatient Program**
- **Chicano/Latino Family Resource System**

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» Philosophy

“IFR seeks to minimize the barriers to clinical services while maximizing their effectiveness. Implicit in this approach is a respect for the psychological reality of the Chicano/Latino population. This encompasses the following general guiding principles:

- Clients shall be able to obtain services for their problems without having to overcome additional problems associated with the provider's inability to communicate in Spanish or to understand the Raza culture in the United States.
- Clients shall be able to obtain services for their current psychological problems without being subjected to unsolicited or unconsented cultural imposition.
Clients with special needs associated with recent immigrant status, culture shock, intercultural conflict and/or poverty shall be able to obtain help from persons skilled in dealing with these problems”.

» Success:

As told by an agency case worker

“I met a single mother who is a survivor of domestic violence at a Team Decision Making meeting (TDM). During the TDM it was clear that she needed support for her Child Protective Services (CPS) case and in her housing situation. At the time, she was on the verge of becoming homeless. CPS was close to deciding to remove her children from her custody due to many miscommunications that had occurred. At the TDM, I advocated for the mother and requested that her case be closed with CPS while I opened a case for her in case management. The social workers involved agreed. After the TDM the mother and I searched relentlessly for new housing. In the meantime, the mother received aid from the Tenants Union so that she would not be evicted until she found a new home. The mother attended all scheduled meetings and made sure to communicate daily with myself and all of the other agencies involved to assure that we knew of any new developments. After a vast housing search, she was accepted into a home. I then gave her a referral to an agency that would help her with her security deposit. Meanwhile, I communicated frequently with CPS to make sure that her case was indeed closed. The mother now has stable housing, feels secure that her family will remain unified, and is now in the process of receiving a new job.”