

# Building Healthy Communities and Preventing Child Neglect

## A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



**PREVENTING CHILD NEGLECT** will take the concerted efforts of individuals, communities and society at large. We have a shared responsibility to help ensure that all children grow up free from harm, with their needs met and with adults who care for them and about them.

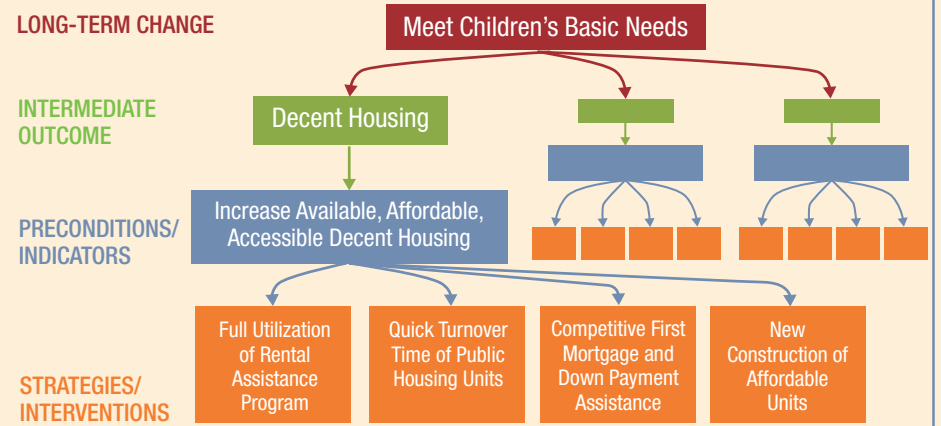
### THEORY OF CHANGE to Prevent Child Neglect

#### Definition

A **THEORY OF CHANGE** is a tool for developing solutions to complex social problems. It articulates the **assumptions about the process** through which change will occur and specifies the ways in which all of the required early and intermediate outcomes related to achieving the **desired long-term change** will be brought about and documented as they occur.

— Andrea Anderson  
Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change

#### Sample Map of Long-Term Change



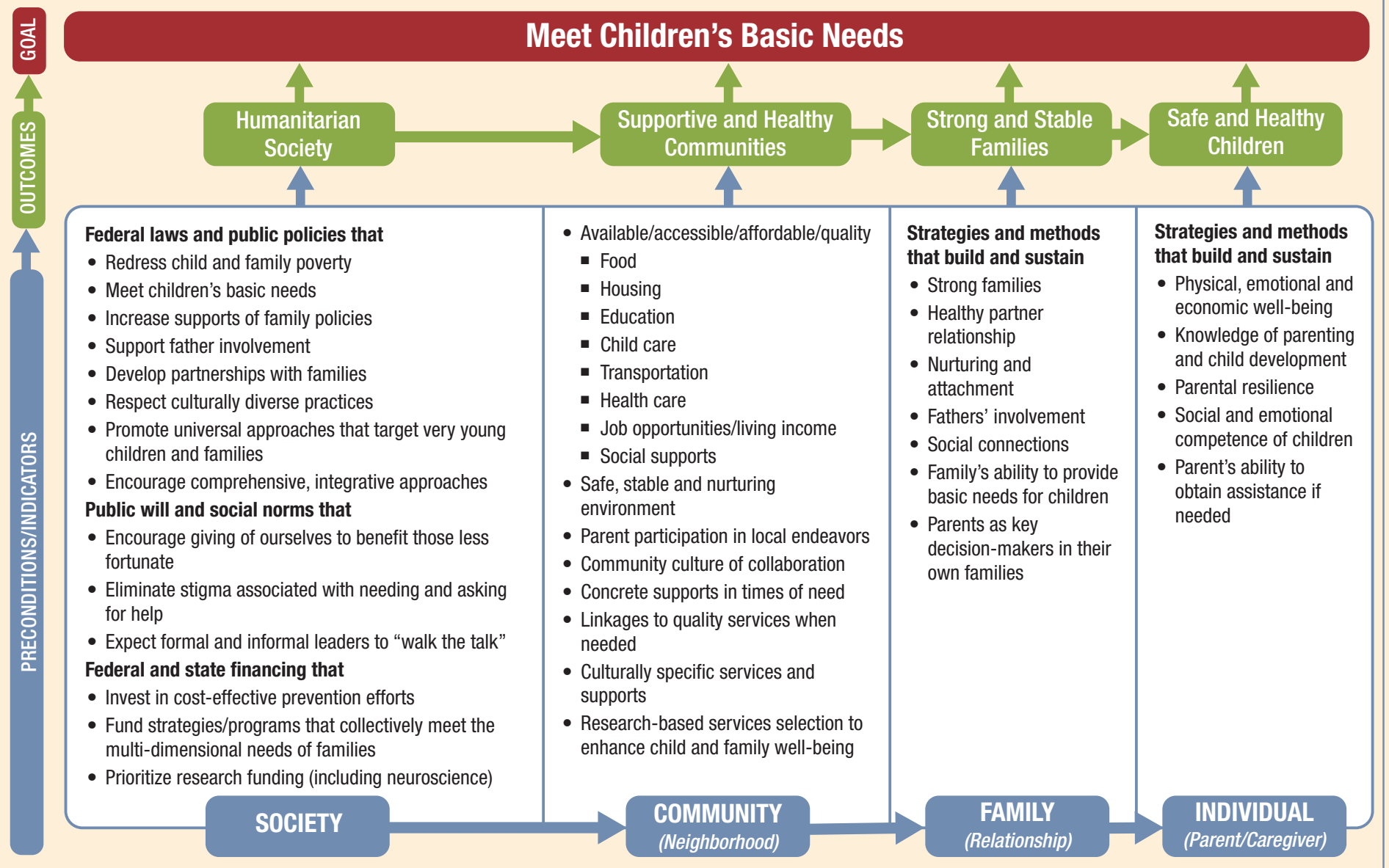
#### Assumptions about the Process

- Acknowledge existence of child neglect and increase public awareness
- Recognize ramifications of inaction
- Develop needed partnerships and resources to take action
- Embrace strategies to reduce incidence and prevalence of child neglect
- Intervene and effectively treat child neglect

#### Desired Long-Term Change

- **SOCIETY** – Political will addresses factors that directly and indirectly contribute to child neglect.
- **COMMUNITY** – Communities are safe and supportive of families in nurturing and raising healthy children.
- **FAMILY** – Parents and caregivers demonstrate knowledge and understanding of child development and nurturing behaviors.
- **CHILD** – Children thrive and their needs are met.

#### Affect Change within the Socio-Ecological Model



To learn more about building healthy communities and preventing child neglect, visit <http://ctfalliance.org/neglect>

