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.

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

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

**Meet Children’s Basic Needs**

Federal laws and public policies that
• Redress child and family poverty
• Meet children’s basic needs
• Increase supports of family policies
• Support family involvement
• Develop partnerships with families
• Respect culturally diverse practices
• Promote universal approaches that target very young children and families
• Ensure comprehensive, integrative approaches

Public will and social norms that
• Encourage giving of ourselves to benefit those less fortunate
• Eliminate stigma associated with needing and asking for help
• Expect formal and informal leaders to “walk the talk”

Federal and state financing that
• Invest in cost-effective prevention efforts
• Fund strategies/programs that collectively meet the multi-dimensional needs of families
• Prioritize research funding (including neuroscience)

Available/accessible/affordable/quality
• Food
• Housing
• Education
• Child care
• Transportation
• Health care
• Job opportunities/living income
• Social supports
• Safe, stable and nurturing environment
• Parent participation in local endeavors
• Community culture of collaboration
• Concrete supports in times of need
• Linkages to quality services when needed
• Culturally specific services and supports
• Research-based services selection to enhance child and family well-being

Federal laws and public policies that
• Physical, emotional and economic well-being
• Knowledge of parenting and child development
• Parental resilience
• Social and emotional competence of children
• Parent’s ability to obtain assistance if needed

To learn more about building healthy communities and preventing child neglect, visit [http://ctfalliance.org/neglect](http://ctfalliance.org/neglect)