

INTRODUCTION

Visión y Compromiso (VyC) is dedicated to improved community health by supporting promotoras. VyC's Family Caregivers Project (FCP) works with informal caregivers, otherwise known as Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers, to build their knowledge and skills to deliver quality care and support the development of healthy children. VyC relies on promotores, trusted community workers who hold high levels of expertise and established, strong rapport within their community. These community experts are critical to the success of the FCP, working not only as mentors/trainers but also as community liaisons who assist in recruiting new caregivers into FCP's FFN Caregivers Training. Since its launch, FCP has delivered customized training to hundreds of FFN caregivers in Latino and Mixteco communities across Santa Barbara, Kern, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties. The FCP consists of five key components, including: 1) a training curriculum; 2) outreach; 3) support groups; 4) a tool kit; and 5) parent engagement workshops. In 2021, EvalCorp partnered with VyC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the FFN Caregivers Training, assess the impact of the training on caregivers, and identify core pillars of the FCP model for successful project replication. Selected findings from the evaluation are outlined below.

IMPACT OF TRAINING

FFN caregivers reported that they gained additional knowledge in all topics taught in the training including child development expertise, emergency preparedness, stress management, effective communication, and positive interactions with children. They also experienced increased recognition of the importance of their role as caregivers and the positive impact they have on the children in their care, the children's families and the greater community.

| Long-Term Impacts | Percent Who Agreed (n=26) |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>The way I parent has improved as a result of what I implemented from the class.</i> | 100% |
| <i>I continue to implement the things I learned from the classes.</i> | 100% |
| <i>I implemented one or more things I learned from the classes I attended.</i> | 100% |
| <i>I recognize the great impact that my work as a caregiver of children has on the community.</i> | 96% |
| <i>I recognize the great impact that my work as a caregiver of children has on the lives of children.</i> | 96% |
| <i>I continue to use the information I learned from the classes I attended.</i> | 96% |
| <i>I learned new parenting strategies that I was not aware of.</i> | 92% |
| <i>I have shared information I learned with others in my community.</i> | 88% |

After completing the FFN Training, 100% of Trainees report engaging differently with children in their care

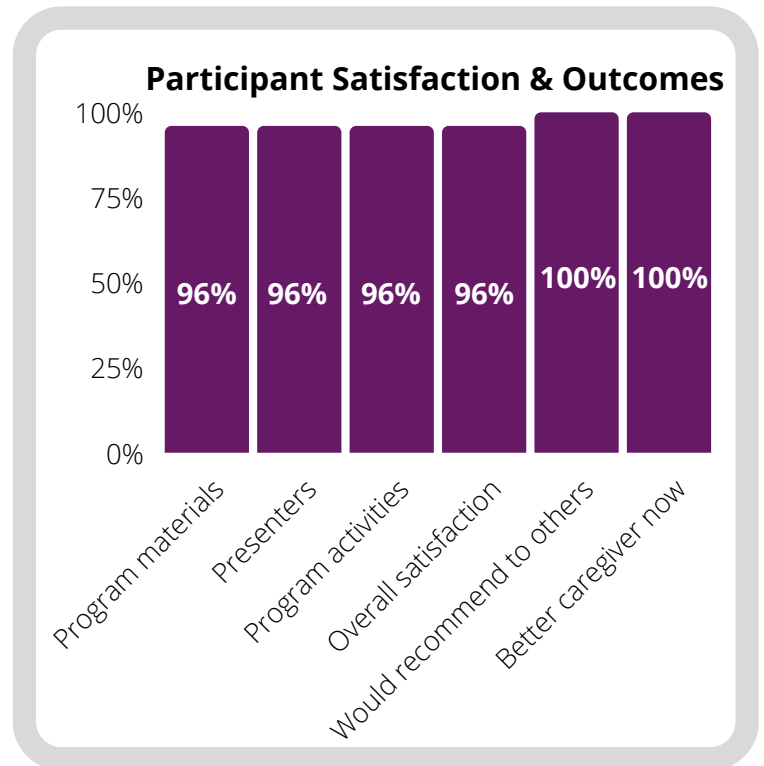
METHODOLOGY

The comprehensive mixed- methods evaluation began with the development of a logic model outlining the activities intended and outcomes of the FCP. A comprehensive literature review was conducted to understand best practices in informal childcare training, recruitment, and delivery. Data collection included training observations, focus groups, key stakeholder interviews, and surveys. All data collection tools and activities were translated into Spanish and carried out in culturally and linguistically relevant ways in collaboration with VyC staff.

SATISFACTION WITH TRAINING

Alumni were asked about their experience with training materials, activities, and presenters to assess overall satisfaction with the training. Responses reflect a high level of satisfaction with each component of the training and with the project overall.

“**Every module taught me a lot. I learned the importance and the impact of my responsibilities as a childcare provider.**”



OVERALL STRENGTHS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, FFN caregiver trainees, alumni, staff, and promotores were satisfied with all aspects of the project. Furthermore, it was evident that VyC's FFN Caregivers Training helps individuals become better caregivers – and much, much more. The FFN caregivers gained more knowledge about child development and methods of discipline, communication, engagement, safety, and overall care. The training also allowed caregivers to recognize their positive impact and importance of their role to children, families, and their community. Another strength of the FCP is its ability to easily engage with the community because the promotores trainers know how to build trusting relationships with caregivers. Additionally, the project demonstrated resilience and adaptability by shifting its curriculum to an online format during the pandemic to continue supporting the caregivers.

Some recommendations to further enhance the FCP's impact on the community included offering the training at variable times during the day, providing childcare during training, incorporating additional modules into the curriculum, providing incentives for training participation, and conducting additional outreach for participant recruitment.

FCP MODEL FOR REPLICATION

The evaluation brought to light three core pillars of the FCP which are critical for successful adaptation of the project in other communities including: 1) Promotores provide Service from the Heart; 2) Honor and Respect of Community; and 3) Responsive Training. Additional detail regarding each pillar is available in the Family Caregivers Project Evaluation Report 2021.

“**Every child is different, and you should give them an opportunity to express themselves so that you can learn more about them and what they need.**”