



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Webinar Series Challenges How We Interpret Investment in Families

New webinars launch in May after a successful start for “The Unlearning of Child Welfare” series

GREENSBORO, N.C. (April 20, 2021) – [Institute for Family](https://www.instituteforfamily.org) is launching a second webinar series under “The Unlearning of Child Welfare” franchise, titled “Investing in Families: How investing in families starts with shifting perspectives, challenging traditions, and imagining bold solutions.” The decision came to build upon the existing webinar franchise after hearing feedback that attendees of the first webinars were already taking action in their communities across the nation and asking for more ideas to drive change.

“In the year-of-a-million-webinars, it can be hard to find the motivation to log in to yet another one. However, the Institute for Family’s webinar series just keeps drawing me in with their masterful facilitators, exciting topics, engaging panelists, and the energy in the chat. It truly feels like they are building a community of passionate people who share in critiques of the current systems and visions of a better future for families,” said one webinar attendee.

The first “The Unlearning of Child Welfare” webinar series in November and December 2020, sparked conversation and action to promote family well-being across the nation. In Washington, Pierce County started a collaborative specifically to “unlearn” child welfare activities in their county and find alternative solutions for meeting family needs. Indiana Department of Child Services Indianapolis office was inspired by the webinars to begin discussions around developing a pilot program to support relative and kinship placements. And in Pennsylvania, Juvenile Law Center amended the federal policy recommendations it will be making on older youth based on what they learned from webinar panelists.

“Investing in Families” is a two-part webinar series slated for May 13 and May 20 supported by partnerships with The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and Prevent Child Abuse America. It will continue to build upon the foundations established in “The Unlearning of Child Welfare” with more bold ideas on how to move from conversation to action.

Episode One “The Economics of Family Well-being” (May 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. ET) gives context around the struggles families are facing that lead to child welfare system involvement, and where opportunities presently exist to make new investments that strengthen families. Panelists Shrounda Selivanoff, Director of Public Policy at Children’s Home Society of Washington, Clare Anderson, Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and Sixto Cancel, CEO of Think of Us will bring lived and professional experience to the discussion.

Episode Two “Bold Actions for Big Change” (May 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. ET) will highlight panelists Katie Albright, CEO at Safe & Sound, Brenda Donald, Director at DC Child and Family Services Agency, Cherie Craft, Founder/CEO and Executive Director at Smart from the Start, and Preston Gray, Senior Family Leader at Smart from the Start. are disrupting the status quo in the field of child welfare. Webinar attendees will learn about their innovative, prevention-based approaches that are improving outcomes for children and families.

“The goal of this webinar is to continue the conversation about why we need to transform our systems from intervening on families to investing in families—prioritizing relationships and preserving families should be our north star. We will focus on how actions like increasing the minimum wage can impact child abuse and neglect rates and how local leaders are innovating in ways that strengthen their communities and help families thrive,” said Matt Anderson, Director of Institute for Family.

To register for the webinar series and learn more about the event, visit instituteforfamily.org.

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ABOUT INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY

Institute for Family is committed to the belief that families are inherently strong and resilient, and that the relationships they forge are the foundation for healthy children, strong communities, and a vibrant society. The organization is part of a growing movement to promote family well-being by convening family, professional, and political voices to address conditions that give rise to family stress and instability. The Institute amplifies stories and experiences that challenge the status quo and inspire positive societal change. Institute for Family is a national effort founded by Children’s Home Society of North Carolina, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Learn more at www.instituteforfamily.org.

ABOUT WEBINAR PARTNERS

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private philanthropy that creates a brighter future for the nation’s children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. Visit aecf.org to learn more.

[Chapin Hall](#) is an independent policy research center at the University of Chicago that provides public and private decision-makers with rigorous research and achievable solutions to support them in improving the lives of children, families, and communities.

[Prevent Child Abuse America](#) is a leading champion for all children in the United States. Founded in 1972 and headquartered in Chicago, we are the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, working to actively prevent all forms of child abuse and neglect before they occur. Our success is founded on a nationwide network of state chapters and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visiting sites, which directly provide parents and caregivers a wide variety of services and resources that help children grow up to be productive, contributing members of their communities and society. Our comprehensive approach is informed by science—we translate and disseminate innovative research to promote proven solutions that our vast network then puts into action. And we raise public awareness and advocate for family friendly policies at the national, state and local levels to support transformative programs and promote the conditions and contexts that help children, families and communities across the country thrive.