

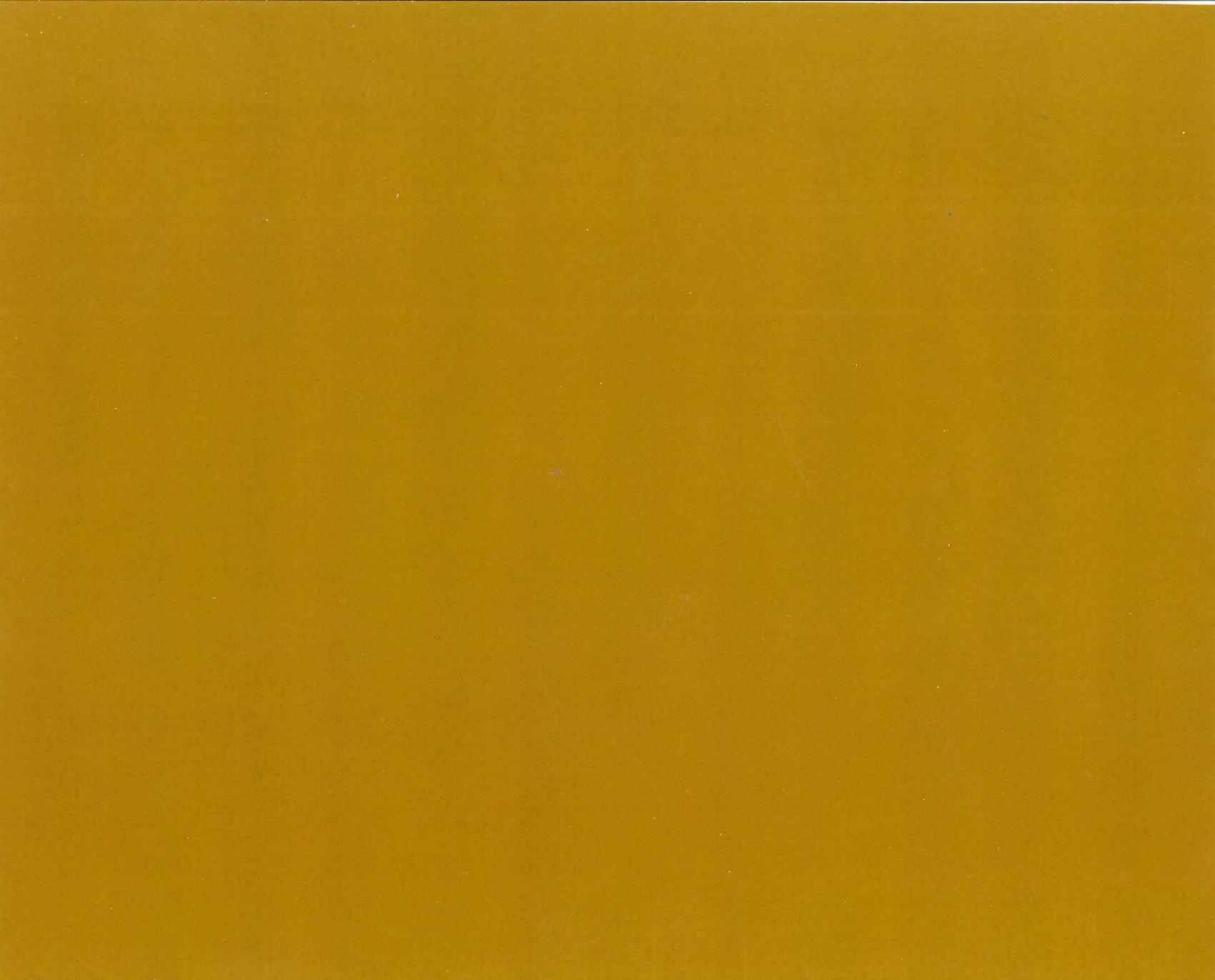
A COMPASS FOR CHILDHOOD

A Program to Develop a Toolkit for the
Improvement of the Child Welfare System



**NATIONAL FOUNDATION
FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN**





«One can judge a society's maturity and development level from the way it treats its children. We need a standardized system for the protection of children in all senses of the word...»

Dmitry Medvedev,
President of the Russian Federation

Introduction:

Sixty years from the date of the first International Children's Day, and twenty years since the Convention on the Rights of the Child came into effect in Russia, the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC) is beginning a new USAID-supported four-year Program entitled, 'A Compass for Childhood: A Program to Develop a Toolkit for the Improvement of the Child Welfare System.' These two important anniversaries for the protection of children's rights serve as an occasion to evaluate the path we have taken and to begin to tailor new initiatives that correspond to our current situation.

The development of an effective and modern child welfare system in Russia has recently become a high priority for the Russian government. In 2006, the President and the Government of the Russian Federation laid out new strategic tasks in the field directed at stemming the influx of orphaned and abandoned children, reforming social institutions responsible for providing services to at-risk families, and adopting complex measures to fight against child violence.

Work is underway to pass new child welfare legislation and create government institutions in the field. The Federal Assembly has adopted and is currently reviewing measures that aim to protect the interests of children and their rights, strengthen foster care systems, and improve systems of guardianship and trusteeship. To assist in these goals, the President of the Russian Federation appointed a Presidential Commissioner on Children's Rights, and similar positions are being created throughout regions in the Russian Federation. In addition,

the Russian Children in Need Fund was created with the aim to award grants on a competitive basis to municipalities and organizations for the funding of regional programs and projects.

Up-to-date models and practices in child protection, foster care, and the prevention of social abandonment are being developed and field tested throughout Russia and innovative approaches targeted at different categories of families and children in need are being implemented to revive normal living conditions for children and to protect their rights. The diverse experiences of Perm, Altai, and Khabarovsk Krays, the regions of Tomsk, Samara, Novosibirsk, Saratov, Vologda, Tambov, Moscow, the Republics of Buryatia and Karelia, in addition to other regions in Russia, are well known to specialists. NFPCC is actively participating in the implementation of early child abuse detection and case management techniques throughout Russia. The results have been widely discussed in several major international, national, and inter-regional conferences.

Civil society organizations have also played an enormous role in resolving child welfare issues. The ability of nonprofit organizations, working both independently and in cooperation with the government, to provide better services for families and children in need is possible through the generous support of businesses, volunteers and charitable foundations.

As a result of such efforts, societal attitudes are changing about what constitutes responsible parenthood, in favor of non-violent child

rearing methods and greater consideration of the child's voice. In 2010 the Presidium of the Presidential Council for the Implementation of Priority National Projects and Demographic Policy instigated a nation-wide informational campaign against child abuse, a cause which ever-increasing numbers of celebrities and ordinary citizens are joining. Through the campaign, a unified toll-free child helpline number was launched in Russia, giving every child the chance to be heard and to receive help.

Our present situation affords a unique window of opportunity to make significant progress in the modernization of the child welfare system in Russia. The cause is supported by political entities and government officials, there is a wealth of experience and innovative technologies developed by Russian specialists available, financial resources are forthcoming and civic initiative is high. Success is now dependent upon the ability of Russian regions to implement effectively government policy serving the best interests of children.

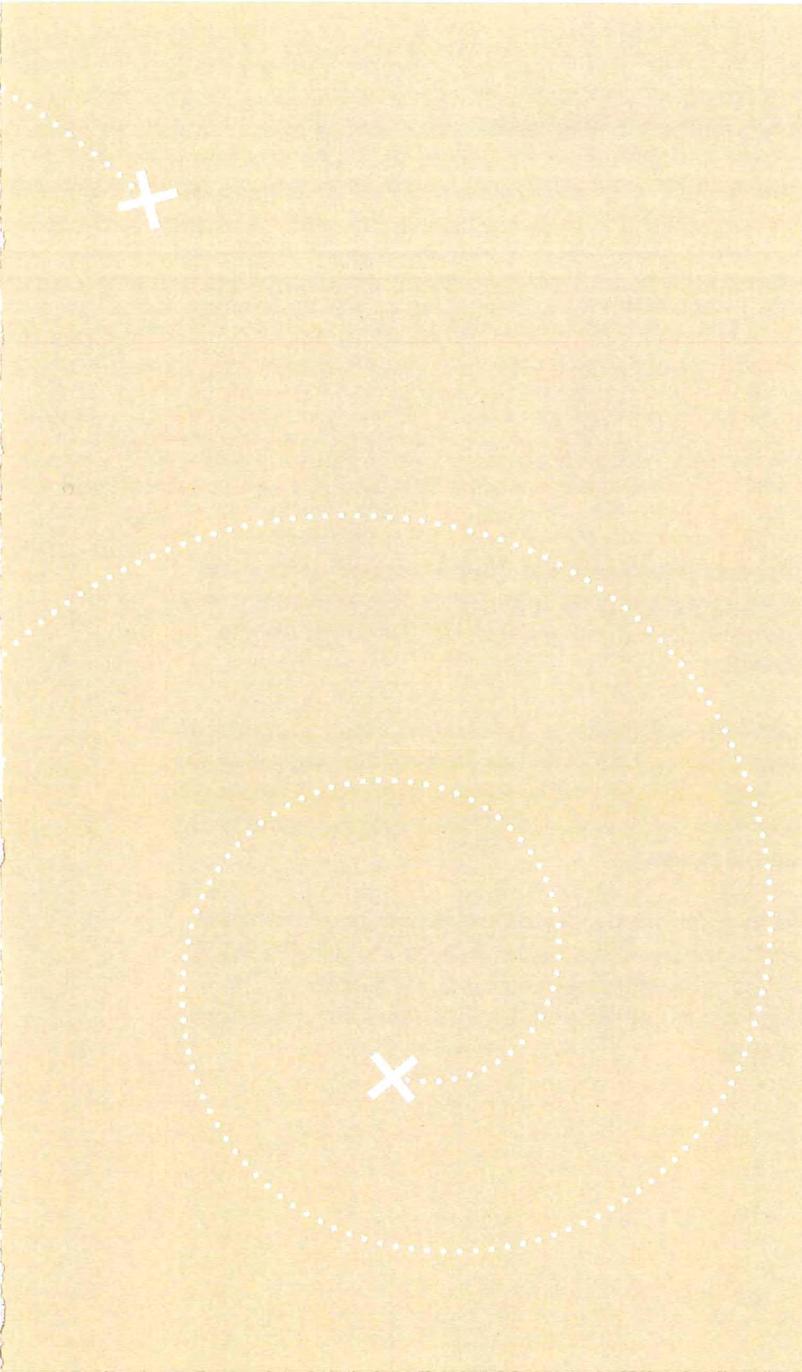
The situation in the regions differs greatly. Effective models are not always used in identifying priorities and developing regional programs, and methods of social project planning which would ensure the quality of planning at local levels are not widely accessible. Too often, attempts to retrain key parties in a single, systematic approach fail. Representatives from Russian regions are calling for wider methodological, educational and expert support.

The 'A Compass for Childhood' Program is dedicated to answering this call by strengthening and developing the regions' capacities to provide child welfare services. The Program works by synthesizing and promoting Russian best practices, and by developing tools for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of regional programs. Finally, 'A Compass for Childhood' works to create Centers of Excellence to increase the professional qualifications of Russian specialists.

This brochure contains core information on the goals and tasks of the Program, its participants and its sphere of activity. We hope for the opportunity to build fruitful relations with all parties interested in the well-being of Russia's children.

**BASIC
INFORMATION ON
'A COMPASS
FOR CHILDHOOD'**





Program Objective:

The main goal of the 'A Compass for Childhood' Program is the development of a toolkit for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating child welfare programs based on best Russian practices. In addition, the Program aims to create Centers of Excellence for the dissemination of a developed toolkit to help specialists increase their abilities and professional qualifications.

Program Tasks:

- I. Consolidate and analyze the most innovative Russian practices in providing services to families and children, as well as develop the Toolkit for Regional Planning, comprised of the following components:
 1. **The provision of services:** Basic package of recommended services for families and children, including service delivery guidelines, methodological recommendations for their implementation, organization and in quality control;
 2. **Strengthening human resources capacity:** Practically-oriented training programs for specialists on working with families and children, with accompanying training curricula and manuals;
 3. **Regional needs assessment:** Tools to determine the level of services needed, analyze the effectiveness of resources usage and estimate the volume of investment needed for the implementation of regional child welfare programs;
 4. **Performance monitoring:** Tools for monitoring the progress of implementation of regional child welfare programs, and the qualitative and quantitative evaluation of results;
 5. **Regional program modules:** Model (approximate) divisions of regional programs in the child welfare field, with accompanying methodological recommendations for design and financial feasibility.
- II. Establish inter-regional Centers of Excellence for the approbation and dissemination of the Toolkit for Regional Planning and training, as well as provide expert methodological assistance to nine regions in implementation of some or all of the components of the Toolkit for regional planning.
- III. Raise awareness of the best models and practices in the field of child welfare by disseminating the Toolkit for Regional Planning, conducting nationwide conferences and other events, and by working together with other NGOs, think tanks and professional associations.

Parties Responsible for the Implementation of the Program

The main party responsible for the implementation of the 'A Compass for Childhood' Program is the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC).

NFPCC's main partner in Program implementation is the Center for Fiscal Policy.

Both Russian and international specialists are involved in the development of the Toolkit for Regional Planning in the child welfare field.

Advisory Council for the 'A Compass for Childhood' Program

A final version of the Toolkit will be reviewed and approved by the Advisory Council of the Program. The Advisory Council of the Program is comprised of representatives from the Presidential Executive Office, the State Duma, the Council of Federation, the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry of Education and Science, regional government bodies, the Russian Children in Need Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and scientific research organizations.

The Advisory Council of the Program provides its recommendations on the development and use of the Toolkit for Regional Planning and its dissemination to regions of the Russian Federation.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES





Objective 1:

Child Welfare Toolkit for the Development of Regional Planning

To review best practices, develop guidelines for care delivery to children and their families, and draft a kit of enabling policy tools, accompanied by methodological materials, NFPC will form a number of expert teams. CFP, being a team member, will estimate the standard cost of the services, provide analysis of budget and economic effectiveness and predict investment needed for the implementation of the services.

Review of Best Practices

In order to review and select best practices for the development of guidelines and training programs, expert teams must cover a large amount of material, including: data from the research study conducted in 26 regions by order of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, entitled "The Prevention of Child Abandonment: Models and Methods in Work with Families;" by order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation - the results of two National Competitions for Best Innovative Models for Family-Based Care (conducted in 58 regions); results from the National Competition for Best Regional Practice for the Prevention of Child Abandonment (in 42 regions); UNICEF research materials; data from pilot testing centers of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation; and data obtained from the regions. The experts will also analyze writing teams' programs and methodological findings of renowned Russian practitioners.

Planned Activities

Objective 1: Child Welfare Toolkit for the Development of Regional Planning

To determine selected best practices, the experts will conduct site-visits to 30 regions, and practitioners and experts alike will join forces in documenting best practices. Additional practices from other regions will also be taken into account.

Toolkit Component Development

Information obtained from the research and from the analysis of best practices will be employed by NFPC and the Center for Fiscal Policy in the development of the above-mentioned five components for the Regional Planning Toolkit.

Protocols and guidelines in the delivery of services will be developed for the **package of recommended services**, accompanied by methodological materials, as well as tools for client-assessment, developing quality control methods, and for monitoring clients receiving services both during and after the period of service. Finally, regulatory and legal documentation

related to the provision of services will be developed, based on the requirements of regulative bodies (including: a list of staff, job descriptions, general and administrative concerns).

The component of the Toolkit for **training programs for specialists** contains various forms of training and quality control, including training for regional/municipal teams and supervisions. The training component will be developed as part of a set of educational programs and accompanying teacher manuals.

Tools for regional needs assessment will be developed to include a needs assessment model and forms and procedures for the collection, analysis, and interpretation of statistical data. The model will focus on: identifying the number of clients in client groups, determining the level of needed services, analysis to determine what child welfare resources each region possesses and their efficiency, and estimating the amount of investment required for implementation of the regional program.

Tools for monitoring the effectiveness of regional programs will be a part of a detailed procedure for monitoring, including qualitative and quantitative assessment.

Planned Activities

Objective 1: Child Welfare Toolkit for the Development of Regional Planning

Regional program modules will be presented as divisions of the regional programs. Each of them will contain a list of measures to aid in the creation or improvement of delivery systems providing service to various groups of vulnerable children and their families, including a formula to determine the amount of resources needed. These modules may be directly used to significantly increase the effectiveness of preparation of corresponding sections of the regional programs. The requirements from the Regional Program Competition organized by the Russian Children in Need Fund will be taken into consideration when developing the modules.

All Toolkit components will be field-tested in Russian regions, including regions intended to house Centers of Excellence. Centers will be awarded with grants to field-test guidelines for service management, delivery and quality monitoring.

International experts from the Institute for Human Services in Ohio, US and the Child Welfare League of America will provide consulting services regarding Toolkit components, including services management and quality monitoring.

Drafts of developed methodological materials will be forwarded to relevant ministries and agencies, UNICEF and the Association of Children's Rights Commissioners for expert review.

After the Child Welfare Toolkit for Regional Planning receives the approval of the Advisory Council, NFPCC can begin work on its dissemination. At this stage, the Toolkit can be modified to correspond with regional legislation as needed.



Objective 2:

Creating Inter-Regional Centers of Excellence and Providing Expert Support to Nine Regions

In a select number of regions, NFPCC will provide the organizational and financial means for the creation of Centers of Excellence during the first year of Program implementation. The CoEs will disseminate the Toolkit for Regional Planning and provide additional opportunities for specialists to increase their professional qualifications through training.

The Creation of Centers of Excellence

Centers of Excellence will be housed at sites where direct services to children and families are provided and where methodological work is also conducted. There can be one single site or a select few chosen for the housing of CoE activity. Sites housing CoEs will be granted funds to expand their logistical and technical capabilities. Center partners will also be awarded grants to establish practicum sites. Professionals at these centers will be trained in Toolkit components, adult education,

supervision and social project planning. Next, teams of trainers, supervisors and consultants will be formed to work further in the respective regions of their Federal District.

Bringing in leading Russian specialists and methodologists will help increase CoEs' potential. In addition, international experts will be invited to participate in the evaluation of programs and methodologies, including those from the Institute of Human Services (Ohio, USA). IHS experts will visit CoEs, provide online consulting and supervision, and appraise developed methodological materials and training manuals. NFPCC will use distance training techniques and videoconferencing to train, supervise and consult with leading experts on individual, difficult cases. CoEs teams will receive training themselves in how to provide training to others.

In regions where CoEs are present, CoE teams, led by NFPCC's experts, will assist in the creation and development of services. During the first two years of the Program, CoEs teams will develop services in their regions. Training will be provided to the institutions developing child welfare services. Additionally, CoEs supervisors will handle quality control for services, while CoE social project planners will participate in the development of regional programs.

Dissemination activity will be financed through funding from the Program, as well as from special budgetary funds from the regions where practices will be disseminated.

Toolkit Dissemination in Nine Regions

In the future, all Centers of Excellence will be awarded grants to manage the dissemination of the services and techniques they have field-tested and implemented in their own regions, and those of two others. The regional situation will be assessed using Toolkit components which have already been developed and field-tested (including tools for needs assessment and model regional situation analysis techniques). Results from the assessments will aid in determining which part of the Toolkit will be given to each region.



Objective 3:

Raising Awareness on Best Models and Practices in Child Welfare Through Toolkit Dissemination

Increasing Awareness About Toolkit Development Within the Professional Community

Publishing and presenting the components of the Toolkit online during development will enable a broad spectrum of specialists to stay informed about the progress and preliminary results of Toolkit development, and will serve in addition as a way to foster their engagement in the process. Toolkit components at every stage of development will be published on NFPCC's website, "On Social Abandonment Prevention in Russia." (www.sirostvo.ru)

Preliminary awareness of the Toolkit will be raised through the publication and distribution of issues of social welfare journals, arranged by topic and theme.

An informational campaign will be arranged to promote the Toolkit. Representatives of regional mass media, local nonprofit organizations

that provide services to families and children, and practitioners will be the information campaign's target audience.

The size and the scope of the Toolkit demand in-depth presentation and wide-ranging professional discussion. Keeping that need in mind, during the Program's implementation, two conferences will be held at the national level. Round tables and breakout sessions at these conferences will facilitate the discussion of individual components in the Toolkit.

Strengthening Toolkit Guidelines

To fulfill its goals to strengthen methodological and regulatory guidelines for the Toolkit, NFPPC will draft Toolkit-based recommendations for developing child welfare regional programs, and submit these for the official approval of the Ministry of Education and Science, and Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation. Also, together with partner organizations involved in the Program NFPPC will develop proposals to improve federal child welfare legislation.

During the course of the Program's implementation, NFPPC proposes the creation of an 'Association of Trainers and Instructors in Child Welfare,' which will facilitate dissemination of the Toolkit for Regional Planning, new training programs, updates about the CoEs' work and the experiences of the regions implementing the Toolkit.

The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children would like to express its deepest gratitude to all our partners providing us with support and assistance in the development of the Program. We are sure that "A Compass for Childhood" will serve as a meaningful resource for all involved in the development of the Russian child welfare system.

NFPCC Partners in the 'A Compass for Childhood' Program

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation
- Russian Children in Need Fund
- United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Center for Fiscal Policy
- Child Helpline International
- Inter-regional Association of Social Service Workers
- Association of Social Workers and Teachers
- Association of Institutions Providing Social Services to Populations in the Siberian Federal District
- NGO 'Stellit'
- Institute for Human Services (IHS)
- Child Welfare League of America
- University Research Company
- Institute for Family Health

Informational Support

- TV 'Center'
- Television program, 'Zvezda'
- Television company, 'Mir'
- Radio Station, 'Voice of Russia'
- Radio Station, 'Moscow Speaks'
- Agency on Social Information
- Journal 'Issues in Social Services'
- Journal, 'Protect Me!'
- Journal, 'Multi-Child Families'
- The informational and analysis site, totalweek.ru

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