## STRONG BEGINNINGS PROGRAM
### FAMILY DEVELOPMENT MATRIX

#### Status Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Benchmark Criteria</th>
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</table>
| **Thriving**               | • Living in housing of choice  
                                 • Spends less than 40% of income on housing rent or mortgage  
                                 • Has adequate housing space and rooms for family size  
                                 • Feels safe and secure in home and neighborhood  
                                 • Takes measures to maintain household in a safe and livable condition  
                                 • Owns property or has maintained tenancy for more than one year |
| **Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient** | • Lives in or has access to adequate housing  
                                 • Spends less than 50% of income on rent or mortgage  
                                 • Has some choice in housing options  
                                 • Feels safe and secure in home and neighborhood  
                                 • Has adequate space and rooms for family size  
                                 • Tenancy is secure for one year |
| **Stable**                 | • Housing is not hazardous, unhealthy or overcrowded  
                                 • Spends less than 60% of income on rent or mortgage  
                                 • Housing options may be limited  
                                 • Feels safe and secure in home  
                                 • All housing and utility costs are paid up to date  
                                 • Has telephone or access to a telephone  
                                 • Tenancy is secure for more than six months |
| **At Risk and/ or Vulnerable** | • Lives in temporary or shared housing  
                                 • Spends more than 60% of income for rent  
                                 • Housing options are severely limited or nonexistent  
                                 • Living in unsafe and over-crowded conditions  
                                 • May have a recent eviction or utility shut off notice  
                                 • Feels unsafe in home and neighborhood  
                                 • May be dependent upon housing assistance  
                                 • Tenancy is secure for six months or less |
| **In Crisis**              | • Is homeless or on the verge of being homeless  
                                 • Has insufficient income for anything but subsistence or temporary housing  
                                 • Living in housing that is unsafe, deteriorating or seriously over-crowded  
                                 • Fears for safety in home and neighborhood  
                                 • Lacks income or resources to maintain permanent housing  
                                 • Lacks basic household necessities |

#### Shelter

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| **Thriving**               | • Living in housing of choice  
                                 • Spends less than 40% of income on housing rent or mortgage  
                                 • Has adequate housing space and rooms for family size  
                                 • Feels safe and secure in home and neighborhood  
                                 • Takes measures to maintain household in a safe and livable condition  
                                 • Owns property or has maintained tenancy for more than one year |
| **Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient** | • Lives in or has access to adequate housing  
                                 • Spends less than 50% of income on rent or mortgage  
                                 • Has some choice in housing options  
                                 • Feels safe and secure in home and neighborhood  
                                 • Has adequate space and rooms for family size  
                                 • Tenancy is secure for one year |
| **Stable**                 | • Housing is not hazardous, unhealthy or overcrowded  
                                 • Spends less than 60% of income on rent or mortgage  
                                 • Housing options may be limited  
                                 • Feels safe and secure in home  
                                 • All housing and utility costs are paid up to date  
                                 • Has telephone or access to a telephone  
                                 • Tenancy is secure for more than six months |
| **At Risk and/ or Vulnerable** | • Lives in temporary or shared housing  
                                 • Spends more than 60% of income for rent  
                                 • Housing options are severely limited or nonexistent  
                                 • Living in unsafe and over-crowded conditions  
                                 • May have a recent eviction or utility shut off notice  
                                 • Feels unsafe in home and neighborhood  
                                 • May be dependent upon housing assistance  
                                 • Tenancy is secure for six months or less |
| **In Crisis**              | • Is homeless or on the verge of being homeless  
                                 • Has insufficient income for anything but subsistence or temporary housing  
                                 • Living in housing that is unsafe, deteriorating or seriously over-crowded  
                                 • Fears for safety in home and neighborhood  
                                 • Lacks income or resources to maintain permanent housing  
                                 • Lacks basic household necessities |

#### Food & Nutrition

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| **Thriving**               | • Can afford a variety of healthy and nutritious foods  
                                 • Has appliances and utensils to prepare food in a variety of methods  
                                 • Eats nutritious, well-balanced meals on a regularly scheduled basis  
                                 • All special dietary requirements are met  
                                 • Is ideal weight |
| **Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient** | • Has enough food to satisfy recommended daily allowances  
                                 • Has appliances and utensils to prepare most foods  
                                 • Eats well-balanced meals on a regularly scheduled basis  
                                 • Special dietary needs are usually met  
                                 • Is ideal weight or less than 10 lbs, heavier or lighter than ideal weight |
| **Stable**                 | • Has adequate nutritious food  
                                 • Has some appliances and utensils to prepare food  
                                 • Eats at least one nutritious meal daily  
                                 • Food is sufficient to prevent health problems  
                                 • Is ideal weight or less than 20 lbs, heavier or lighter than ideal weight |
| **At Risk and/ or Vulnerable** | • Family members are sometimes hungry and/or malnourished due to lack of food  
                                 • Does not have appliances and utensils to prepare food  
                                 • Nutritional requirements are not consistently met  
                                 • Eats when food is available  
                                 • Is obese or underweight |
| **In Crisis**              | • Hunger is common  
                                 • Has a serious lack of resources to obtain food  
                                 • Evidence of or diagnosis of malnutrition  
                                 • Has a severe eating disorder  
                                 • No one is preparing meals  
                                 • Is extremely obese or severely underweight |

#### Transportation & Mobility

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| **Thriving**               | • Has current and valid drivers license  
                                 • Has a vehicle that is safe and in adequate running condition  
                                 • Is fully insured and has comprehensive insurance coverage  
                                 • Can afford choice of transportation  
                                 • Is able to repair vehicle when needed |
| **Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient** | • Has current and valid drivers license  
                                 • Has a vehicle  
                                 • Can afford alternate transportation when needed  
                                 • Can generally repair vehicle when needed |
| **Stable**                 | • Has current and valid drivers license  
                                 • Has a vehicle  
                                 • Can afford alternate transportation when needed  
                                 • Can generally repair vehicle when needed |
| **At Risk and/ or Vulnerable** | • Has a revoked, suspended or invalid driver’s license  
                                 • May have insufficient funds to obtain transportation when needed  
                                 • Has unpaid traffic tickets  
                                 • Does not have safe or reliable transportation  
                                 • Does not have auto insurance  
                                 • Does not have income to obtain transportation  |
| **In Crisis**              | • Is driving without a license  
                                 • Is driving without insurance  
                                 • Is driving without a license – is beginning to drive  
                                 • No one is preparing meals  
                                 • Is unaware of and does not practice safe behaviors or hygiene practices |

#### Health & Safety

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| **Thriving**               | • Has established relationships with health care professionals  
                                 • Has comprehensive health insurance  
                                 • Practices preventive health habits  
                                 • Practices safe behaviors in all environments |
| **Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient** | • Can access health care when needed  
                                 • Has insurance that covers at least 80 percent of costs of care  
                                 • Has adequate income to make payment arrangements  
                                 • Has sound health and hygiene practices  
                                 • Seeks timely assessment and treatment  
                                 • Practices safe behaviors in most environments |
| **Stable**                 | • Can and does access health care but has significant difficulty and/or gaps in health care coverage  
                                 • Has major and emergency insurance coverage  
                                 • Has adequate income to pay treatment of care balances over time  
                                 • Generally practices sound hygiene  
                                 • Seeks treatment for significant problems  
                                 • Practices safe behaviors in many environments |
| **At Risk and/ or Vulnerable** | • Is usually able to handle social, cultural and economic pressures  
                                 • Acknowledges any drug or alcohol problems and is utilizing treatment  
                                 • Generally using community resources needed to meet family needs  
                                 • Generally able to control symptoms of mental illness or seeks treatment when needed |
| **In Crisis**              | • Health care is sporadic  
                                 • Has difficulty accessing health care  
                                 • Is not covered by insurance  
                                 • Has inadequate income to access necessary health care  
                                 • Doesn’t take care of self – ignores health problems  
                                 • Is unaware of and does not practice safe behaviors or hygiene practices |

#### Social & Emotional Health & Competence

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</table>
| **Thriving**               | • Working to change negative social and cultural conditions on a personal and community level  
                                 • Uses resources for personal development  
                                 • Is not using drugs or alcohol  
                                 • Is maintaining sobriety |
| **Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient** | • Is able to cope with social, cultural and economic pressures  
                                 • Is not using drugs or alcohol  
                                 • Has used treatment to make progress toward sobriety and is maintaining sobriety  
                                 • Has well developed support system – is able to receive as well as provide support  
                                 • Generally makes wise use of community resources to meet full range of family needs |
| **Stable**                 | • Is usually able to handle social, cultural and economic pressures  
                                 • Acknowledges any drug or alcohol problems and is utilizing treatment  
                                 • Generally using community resources needed to meet family needs  
                                 • Generally able to control symptoms of mental illness or seeks treatment when needed |
| **At Risk and/ or Vulnerable** | • Uses illegal drugs  
                                 • Ailures alcohol or prescription drugs  
                                 • Has inadequate social support systems but is beginning to develop appropriate connections  
                                 • Is often in denial of emotional, mental health, and/or substance abuse problems  
                                 • Is unable to control symptoms of mental illness or does not seek treatment when needed |
| **In Crisis**              | • Is unable to take care of self or family  
                                 • Has severe and untreated drug or alcohol abuse  
                                 • Has severe and untreated mental illness  
                                 • Has no social support system  
                                 • Is isolated |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status Level</th>
<th>Income &amp; Budget</th>
<th>Family Relations &amp; Parenting</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Adult Education &amp; Development</th>
<th>Children/Youth Education &amp; Development</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benchmarks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thriving</strong></td>
<td>Sufficient earned income to allow family choices for non-essential purchases.</td>
<td>Has a strong supportive family with positive family identity.</td>
<td>Possesses marketable job skills and positive work experience.</td>
<td>Has post secondary education or training.</td>
<td>Has little or no absenteeism.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Able to save 10% of income.</td>
<td>Mutually agreed upon rules and expectations.</td>
<td>Constant development of transferable job skills.</td>
<td>Parents speak, read and write English.</td>
<td>Has high grades in most subjects and passing marks in every subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Established relationship with insured financial institution.</td>
<td>Conflicts are easily negotiated.</td>
<td>Permanent employment by secure business offering a comprehensive benefit</td>
<td>Positive, supportive attitude toward education.</td>
<td>Has no discipline problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has a good credit rating.</td>
<td>Is nurturing and consistently cares for family members.</td>
<td>package.</td>
<td>Set and pursue long range career and educational goals.</td>
<td>Is a leader among other students.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anticipates continuation of current income level for at least one year.</td>
<td>Children are happy and socially well-adjusted.</td>
<td>Has solid job search and retention skills.</td>
<td>Highly value education for children.</td>
<td>Has a positive attitude toward education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safe and/ or Self-Sufficient</strong></td>
<td>Sufficient earned income to meet basic family needs.</td>
<td>Supportive family with a generally positive identity.</td>
<td>Has attained marketable job skills.</td>
<td>Some family members speak, read and write English.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plans and sticks to a monthly budget.</td>
<td>Has realistic rules and manageable conflict.</td>
<td>Is employed by a secure business offering some benefits.</td>
<td>Have or are pursuing a high school diploma or equivalent education.</td>
<td>Absenteeism is not high enough to be a concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saves when possible.</td>
<td>Usually provides sound, nurturing care for family members.</td>
<td>Has employment with potential for advancement.</td>
<td>Enrolled in adult education, English as a Second Language, Vocational Education or College</td>
<td>Has passing marks in all subjects.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Able to obtain a secured line of credit.</td>
<td>Children unusually happy and outgoing; little violence or aggression.</td>
<td>Has or can easily develop job retention skills.</td>
<td>Values education for children.</td>
<td>Has no discipline problems.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pays bills on time, delays purchases to handle debt load.</td>
<td>Children are consistently able to relate to parents.</td>
<td>Has job search skills.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Has a good attitude toward education.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has a good credit rating.</td>
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<td>Has sufficient wages to provide for family needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stable</strong></td>
<td>Has a limited income.</td>
<td>No abuse or neglect of any kind.</td>
<td>Considering or in the process of developing more marketable job skills.</td>
<td>Considers personal education needs and options.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is sometimes unable to meet basic needs.</td>
<td>Learning positive family dynamics.</td>
<td>Has seasonal, part time or temporary employment.</td>
<td>Has or is pursuing a high school education.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Has spontaneous and inappropriate spending habits.</td>
<td>Care of family members is adequate.</td>
<td>Has employment with inadequate hours, benefits and/or stability.</td>
<td>Has limited English skills.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has no savings.</td>
<td>Children are sometimes able to relate to parents.</td>
<td>Has employment with limited advancement potential.</td>
<td>Can set and pursue some career and personal education goals with assistance.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has limited ability to obtain credit.</td>
<td>Parents are involved in parenting, communication and/or family development training.</td>
<td>Has-understanding of job search skills. Can search for a job with assistance.</td>
<td>Values some education for children.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Has no unpaid bills.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An overwhelming debt load.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>At Risk and/ or Vulnerable</strong></td>
<td>Has a limited income.</td>
<td>Outside placement of children is threatened.</td>
<td>Has limited job skills.</td>
<td>Has less than a ninth grade education.</td>
<td>Has a high absenteeism rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is sometimes unable to meet basic needs.</td>
<td>Learning positive family dynamics.</td>
<td>Has limited job skills.</td>
<td>Has generally limited English skills.</td>
<td>Has a poor attitude toward education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has spontaneous and inappropriate spending habits.</td>
<td>Care of family members is adequate.</td>
<td>Has employment with no benefits.</td>
<td>Does not consider education a priority.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has no savings.</td>
<td>Children have run away from home.</td>
<td>Is not sure where or how to find the next job.</td>
<td>Does not set or pursue educational or career goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has limited ability to obtain credit.</td>
<td>Unrealistic or non-existent rules.</td>
<td>Has no advancement potential.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Has unpaid bills.</td>
<td>Constant conflict.</td>
<td>Has disciplinary or performance problems at work.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An overwhelming debt load.</td>
<td>Inadequate care.</td>
<td>Has free job search or retention skills.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Crisis</strong></td>
<td>Very little money and can not meet basic needs.</td>
<td>Risk of abuse or neglect.</td>
<td>Wages are insufficient to meet family needs.</td>
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<td>Unable to obtain credit.</td>
<td>Children are unhappy, withdrawn, violent or aggressive.</td>
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<td>Has unpaid bills and collectors calling.</td>
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<td>Is dependent upon public assistance.</td>
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