



OVERVIEW

The Family Enrichment Center (FEC) model, developed by NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in 2017, is a community-driven approach designed to strengthen families by centering the voices, strengths, and leadership of parents and residents. Operated by trusted local organizations, FECs are welcoming spaces that foster connection, creativity, and hope, while supporting healthy family functioning and community well-being. Each Center is uniquely shaped by its community through a co-design process grounded in equity, respect, and shared ownership.

BACKGROUND

The FEC model emerged following 18 months of research and collaboration with community providers and stakeholders and is informed by the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. Since their initial launch, FECs have demonstrated early success due to the dedication of community members who view the Centers as safe, trusted spaces. Advisory groups of parents and residents play a central role in guiding programming, outreach, and design, ensuring that each Center reflects the lived experiences and priorities of the neighborhood it serves.

APPROACH

The Centers partner with local leaders, businesses, and organizations to provide physical and virtual spaces where individuals and families can build relationships, access resources, and pursue personal and collective growth. Core offerings are co-designed and often co-led by parent leaders and focus on:

- **Parent Cafés:** Peer-led discussions that encourage shared learning, reflection, and mutual support, offered in multiple languages.
- **Appreciative Inquiry:** A strengths-based process that helps communities envision and build toward a shared future.
- **Protective Factors:** Evidence-based supports that promote family stability and well-being, including parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of children, concrete supports, economic mobility, and community.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Using a strength-based, inclusive approach, the ROC FEC offers welcoming, flexible spaces shaped by community input. Participation is voluntary and free, with no requirement to share personal or identifying information. Offerings evolve based on community interests and may include skill-building, social gatherings, resource sharing, leadership opportunities, and family-centered activities. Hours and programming are responsive to community needs, and confidentiality is always respected.



THE ROC'S IMPACT

Although the ROC Family Enrichment Center is not yet open as a physical site, it has already made a meaningful impact across the Belmont, Morrisania, Crotona, and East Tremont communities. Since inception, the ROC has:

- Launched a bike education initiative, culminating in the distribution of 50 bikes to local youth.
- Led three successful Christmas initiatives, serving 75+ families.
- Hosted a Back-to-School event supporting over 100 students and families.
- Partnered with Cary Leeds to send 14 students to tennis camp for three seasons.
- Organized Eid, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day community events.
- Facilitated a Summer Leap Literacy event led by a Youth Leader.
- Built strong partnerships with Commonpoint, NYPD 42nd and 48th Precincts, Bronx Defenders BLOC, VIP Community Services, and NYC DOE District 9, Boys .

These efforts reflect the ROC's commitment to community presence, trust-building, and family enrichment, laying a strong foundation for the future Family Enrichment Center.