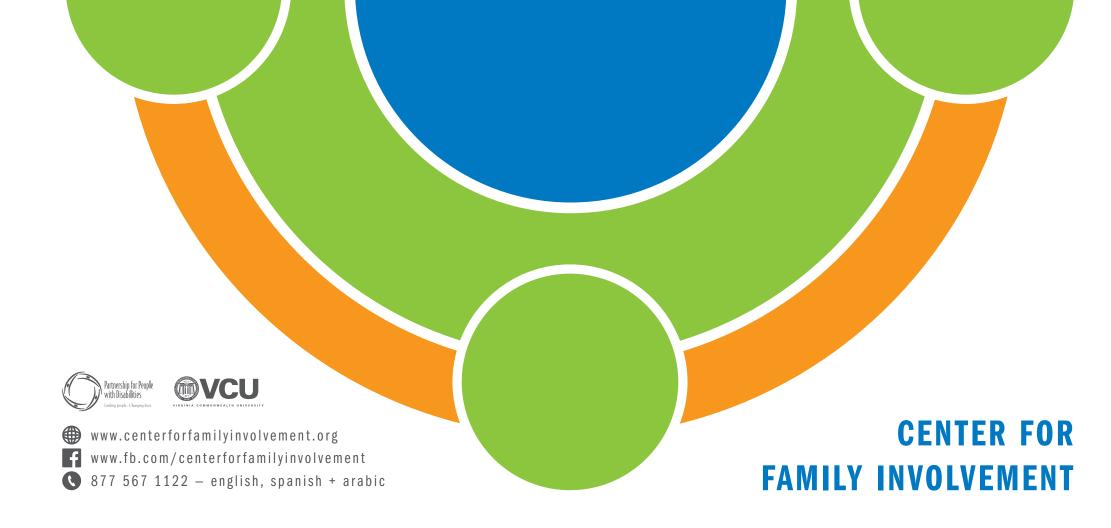
We WORK with families to increase THEIR Skills as advocates, mentors C LEADERS so that FAMILY MEMBERS and others with disabilities can lead the lives THEY WANT.



## VISION

## METHOD

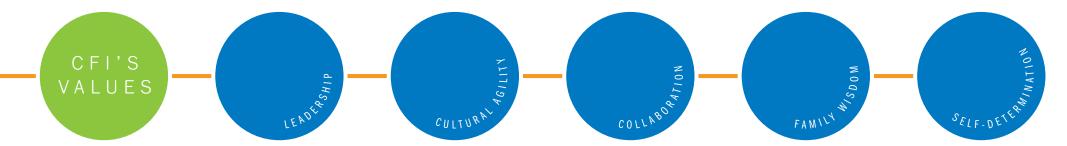
## 1NITIATIVES

The Center for Family Involvement (CFI) strives to model the collaboration of parents and professionals in all of its work including information and referral, materials and resource development, and training and technical assistance. The CFI is committed to improving outcomes for children, youth, and adults with disabilities through its long-term commitment to supporting parent/family involvement, engagement, and leadership. We work to help families become:

- ADVOCATES who speak with and for their family members with disabilities;
- MENTORS who use what they have learned to help others; and,
- LEADERS who make possible a better life for those who follow.

Every family of an individual with a disability, together with the professionals who work with them, embraces the family's role in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

- Partner with families and professionals to encourage and foster family involvement, engagement and leadership
- Provide one-on-one emotional, informational and systems navigational support
- Uncover what is required to improve family engagement and research strategies to meet these needs
- Inform families about involvement activities that are relevant to their situations



Through funding from the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and the Virginia Departments of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities, Education and Health, the CFI operates several statewide initiatives:

- Family to Family Network of Virginia statewide network of locally based family members trained to provide information, assistance and referrals to care-givers of people with disabilities
- IEP Products
  collaborative standards-based Individualized
  Education Plan (IEP) online training modules
  and print materials
- Transition Initiatives
   helps children and young adults with disabilities
   to plan for their post-school future
- Virginia is for Siblings! inspires siblings of people with disabilities to form connections, share experiences, utilize resources, access information and advocate for change

- Parent Resource Centers (PRC) supplies resources to facilities that provide parents with information, resources and training
- Family Engagement Network supports local communities in their efforts to involve families
- CFI Website provides various resources and products
- Annual Parent Summit assists parents in networking and in getting information they need to support youth
- Cultural Brokers connects with rural and culturally diverse communities across the Commonwealth

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability. If alternative formats of this document are needed, please contact the Partnership for People with Disabilities at (804) 828-0352.