



Member Convening & Congressional Briefing May 18–21, 2026

Objectives:

- To create a cohesive and connected membership that effectively welcomes and integrates new participants.
- To support and strengthen networks through peer learning and sharing on emerging, promising, and best practices.
- To raise awareness about the value of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and Family Resource Center Networks with legislators and their staff.
- To honor the NFSN’s 15-year journey and articulate a clear, shared vision for the future of the Network.

2026 Convening Sponsor:



Agenda:

Monday, May 18 – FRC Tour & Welcome		
Time	Activity Description	Lead
1:00-4:30	Optional Visit to FRC (includes transportation)	Jennifer
5:00-6:30	Informal No-Host Welcome Mix & Mingle @ Socci Restaurant in Renaissance Arlington Capitol View Hotel (connected to the Residence Inn)	Robyn + Member Engagement Committee
7:00	Optional No-Host Small Group Dinners	
7:00	Board of Directors Dinner @ Founding Farmers Alexandria	Julie

Tuesday, May 19 – Capitol Hill Day: Congressional Briefing & 15th Anniversary Celebration		
Capitol Hill - Hart Senate Building Room 902 & Residence Inn Arlington - Potomac Room		
Time	Activity Description	Lead
	Breakfast on Your Own	
8:30-9:00	Security Clearance	
9:00-11:00	Individual Legislator Office Visits	Network Team Leads
11:45-12:00	Lunch, Member & Briefing Participant Check-in, Gathering Time	Robyn + Michael (Registration)







12:00-1:00	Congressional Briefing (Hart Senate Building Room 902)	Brenda/CRS
1:00-1:30	Transition Time	
1:30-3:30	Individual Legislator Office Visits	Network Team Leads
3:30-4:15	Transition Time	
4:15-4:45	Celebration Arrival & Warm Welcome <i>Members are welcome to arrive beginning at 4:15 p.m. for a warm celebratory gathering before the formal program begins promptly at 4:45 p.m.</i>	Julie
4:45-5:45	NFSN at 15: Honoring Our Roots, Shaping the Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Slide Show Link • Matt Lewis, Emcee • Karen Welford, NFSN Co-Founder & Board Secretary • Tecoria Jones, Parent Leader • Tameka Caldwell, NFSN Board • David Kelly, NFSN Board <i>The program is expected to conclude by 5:45 p.m., followed immediately by the networking reception.</i>	Julie & Brenda
5:45-7:00	Networking Reception	Julie
7:15	Optional No-Host Small Group Dinners	

Wednesday, May 20 – Member Convening		
Location: Residence Inn Arlington - Potomac Room		
Time	Activity Description	Lead
Before 10:15	Breakfast on Your Own	
10:15-10:30	Check-in (Receive Raffle ticket and Scavenger Hunt Paper)	Michael
10:30-10:45	Welcome Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Housekeeping, & Agenda Overview • Introduce Emcee, Matt Lewis • Introduction & Land Acknowledgement • Wins & Reflections from Advocacy Day • Introduce Scavenger Hunt • RAFFLE #1- Check-in Tickets 	Julie Julie Matt Mary Ann Jennifer Mollie
10:45-12:45	Focus on Wellness: Intention Setting & Grounding (5 minutes) Research and Innovation Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Bayless, OMNI Institute • Ryan O'Donnell, Sunlight 	Robyn Brenda
12:45-1:45	LUNCH RAFFLE # 2- Return from lunch by 1:35 pm and receive a raffle ticket. 1 drawing	Denise

1:45-3:15	FRC Connections: Story, Movement, and Shared Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated by Matt Lewis 	Robyn & Julie
3:15-3:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK	
3:30-4:15	Focus on Wellness: Movement (<i>5 minutes</i>) Group Member Photo NFSN Member Exchange: Expanding the Circle of Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated by Matt Lewis 	Jennifer Julie & Brooke Robyn & Julie
4:15-5:00	NFSN Member Exchange: Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support Close	Jennifer Matt
6:45	Optional Networking Activity: Washington Nationals at National Park	
6:30	Optional No-Host Small Group Dinners	

Thursday, May 21 - Member Convening		
Location: Residence Inn Arlington - Potomac Room		
Time	Activity Description	Lead
8:30-9:00	Breakfast on your own (Early bird gets the worm Raffle entry) Arrive by 8:50am to be entered into the 9 am raffle	
9:00-9:15	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Member Engagement Committee Remarks RAFFLE #3- Early Bird 1 drawing Day Two Agenda 	Matt Chelsy
9:15-10:12	Focus on Wellness: Radical Gratitude Poem & Grounding (<i>5 minutes</i>) Insights and Opportunities for Advancing FRCs Discussion with National Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reyana Ugás, Casey Family Programs Hannah McIntire, Annie E. Casey Foundation 	Julie Brenda
10:12-10:15	Transition to Break Reminder to turn in Scavenger Hunt for raffle ticket at break	Matt
10:15-10:30	BREAK	
10:30-12:00	RAFFLE # 4- Scavenger Hunt raffles- 2 drawings Strategic Storytelling: Calls to Action Storytelling Wrap-Up	Ron & Jennifer Matt

12:00-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-2:00	<p>Convening Evaluation (10 minutes) <i>Complete the evaluation and receive a raffle entry ticket</i></p> <p>From Local Impact to National Visibility - Exploring a shared national moment for Family Resource Centers</p> <p>Close & RAFFLE # 5- Evaluation Completion- 2 drawings</p>	<p>Brenda</p> <p>Brenda</p> <p>Julie & Brenda</p>

Convening Quick Links	
<p>RESOURCES</p> 	<p>Resources: Find session materials, shared resources, contact list, FAQ, dietary information, optional activity sign-ups, and follow-up items added during and after the event. This is the participant parent folder for the below resources, as well.</p>
<p>PARKING LOT</p> 	<p>Questions and Follow-up Parking Lot: Share questions, reflections, ideas, or follow-up needs throughout the convening.</p>
<p>PHOTOS</p> 	<p>Photo Sharing: Add your convening photos so we can capture and celebrate our time together.</p>
<p>EVALUATION</p> 	<p>Evaluation: Please complete the evaluation after the Congressional Briefing and Member Convening. Your feedback helps shape future NFSN events.</p>