

# ACEs Connection Network

Healthy, happy kids grow up to create a healthy, happy world.



## ACES CONNECTION NETWORK OVERVIEW

### ACEs = Adverse Childhood Experiences

The ACEs Connection Network comprises:

- [AcesTooHigh.com](http://AcesTooHigh.com), a news site for the general public; and
- [AcesConnection.com](http://AcesConnection.com), a social network for people who are implementing ACEs-, trauma-informed, and resilience-building practices.

[The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) and [The California Endowment](#) provide funding and support.



[AcesTooHigh.com](http://AcesTooHigh.com) is a **solutions-oriented news site** that covers research about adverse childhood experiences, including the epidemiology (the CDC ACE Study and other ACE surveys), the neurobiology of toxic stress, the long-term biomedical and epigenetic consequences of toxic stress, and resilience research. It reports how people, organizations, agencies and communities are implementing practices based on the research. The stories focus on developments across all sectors -- education, juvenile justice, criminal justice, public health, medicine, mental health, social services, cities, counties, states, and more.

[AcesConnection.com](http://AcesConnection.com) is a **community of practice social network that helps communities use a collective impact approach** to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs); to change systems so they no longer traumatize already traumatized people; and to build resilience in individuals, families, organizations, systems and communities.

**A community of practice** is a type of social network in which people work together online and face-to-face to set and implement goals. ACEsConnection.com members implement trauma-informed and

resilience-building practices to prevent ACEs and to help systems stop re-traumatizing already traumatized people.

**Collective impact** describes how people from different sectors develop a common agenda to create and implement solutions to community problems. ACEsConnection.com supports the development of cross-sector collaborations in 30,000 cities and towns in the U.S.; 3,086 counties and parishes in the U.S.; 50 U.S. states and five territories; and 196 countries through in-person and online activity.

### The ACEs Connection social network provides:

- **Information and resources.** A staff of journalists and social service professionals monitor the site and are available to answer questions at any time. ACEs Connection managers scan media outlets daily and post ACEs-, trauma-informed, and resilience-related stories. Members are emailed daily digests and weekly roundups with collections of the top stories, reports, and research. An interactive map provides locations of members. A resource center provides links to training, publications, toolkits, presentations, and reports.
- **Goal-oriented action groups.** After joining ACEs Connection, members can join or start groups. Groups are either geographic-based (city, county, region, state) or topic-based (pediatrics, criminal justice, education). Groups can be public or private, small or large. Groups are a vehicle for planning, implementing, and evaluating the process of implementing trauma-informed and resilience-building practices based on childhood adversity research. Group members can participate in discussion and chats; these activities are best used with in-person meet-ups. Groups create collaborative working documents to track their progress.
- **Community management.** ACEs Connection managers assist in identifying, training, and mentoring each group's community managers. Together, they work with group members to develop and implement goals, strategies, and action plans through online and in-person activities. They blog relevant info, post events, feature member activities, coordinate working documents, and schedule in-person meet-ups.
- **Traditional social networking.** ACEs Connection members participate in blogs, discussion forums, live chats, private messaging, in-person meet-ups and events. They share documents, photos, videos, audio files, calendars, and distribute them to their own networks via Facebook, Twitter and listservs.

**ACEsConnection.com uses distributed networking technology** to support a cross-sector, community effort. The network engages and empowers a critical mass of ACEs-, trauma-informed, and resilience-building champions. The move from a few centralized networks to many overlapping *distributed networks* enables residents, advocates and professionals to participate equally across sectors and geographies to create change.

#### **Q&A: How much does it cost to be a member?**

**ACEs Too High** provides members with free, reliable news on cross-sector issues that matter most. Like many other social media outlets, **ACEs Connection** is also free. Bonus: no paid advertisements on either site.

#### **Q&A: How do I join ACEs Connection?**

- Join ACEs Connection by clicking on [www.acesconnection.com/join](http://www.acesconnection.com/join) and create a profile.
- You will be asked to include your location, profession, organization, interest in ACEs, and a picture (avatar) of yourself. Please complete the whole profile, including adding a photo. Be sure to provide your first and last name as your Display Name.
- After filling out the profile, it will be reviewed, and, after it's verified, you will receive a welcome message from ACEs Connection staff with information on how to adjust your notification settings and receive as many or few emails as desired, including the daily digest and weekly roundup. If you live in a community that has a group, you will automatically be placed in that group.
- Need to update, add info, or add a picture to your profile? Questions on how to navigate the site? Visit: [www.acesconnection.com/collect...d-on-aces-connection](http://www.acesconnection.com/collect...d-on-aces-connection)
- Check out groups and join one that interests you: <http://www.acesconnection.com/groups>
- If you join a public group, you will become a member immediately. If you join a private group, you will have to await approval from a community manager.