

The Full Frame Initiative (FFI) is a national nonprofit that works to break cycles of poverty and violence through systems change.

FFI has discovered the common DNA among organizations with the best record of success in working with marginalized people and communities. Recognizing that people facing complex problems need support that’s as multi-faceted as the lives they live, these highly effective organizations operate with principles and practices that support people in the *full frame* of their lives. Many more organizations would choose to operate with a Full Frame Approach, but they are stymied by rules, regulations and other barriers present throughout the social service system.

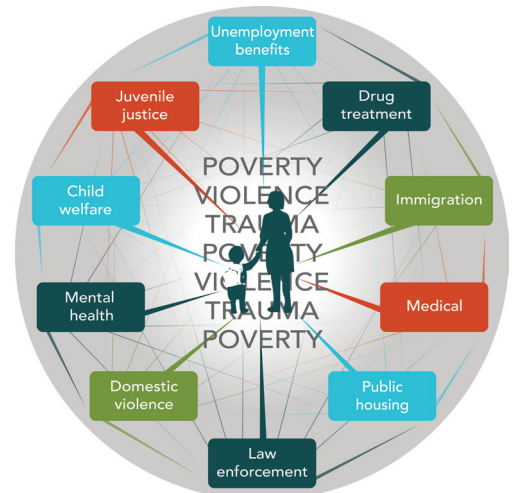
In partnership with practical visionaries in government, nonprofits, philanthropy and communities, FFI removes systemic barriers to *full frame* practice, allowing more people and communities to thrive.

What is visible

Seemingly endless cycles of poverty and violence.

People who live with poverty and violence engage with an array of public systems and community-based nonprofits, each designed to help them with a specific problem. All too often, services are narrowly focused, and cannot pay attention to the full context of people’s lives or the challenges of involvement in multiple systems.

The result is services that don’t support lasting change for people facing the greatest challenges. When these interventions ultimately fail, people are often worse off than when they entered the system, and they remain trapped in an expensive revolving door of services. Lives and dollars are wasted.



Hidden in plain view

A common DNA.

Across the country, there are a small number of organizations with outcomes that defy expectations for what is presumed possible for people facing complex and multiple challenges. FFI has discovered how these positive outliers are helping people make dramatic changes that end seemingly unbreakable cycles of poverty and violence.

Although these organizations center on different communities and issues—such as domestic violence, juvenile justice, community violence, homelessness, mental health—they share a common DNA: a set of principles and practices that differentiate them from their less successful counterparts. FFI calls it **The Full Frame Approach**.

These successful organizations know that breaking cycles of poverty and violence requires seeing the interconnections among people's challenges as well as their strengths. They pay attention to what EVERY PERSON needs to thrive. FFI calls these essential needs the **Five Domains of Wellbeing**:

- ✦ **Social connectedness**
- ✦ **Safety**
- ✦ **Stability**
- ✦ **Mastery**
- ✦ **Meaningful access to relevant resources**



Unleashing what works

Removing barriers.

Many organizations are primed to adopt a Full Frame Approach because they know it works better. Some may have even operated this way in the past but were forced to abandon the Approach. Regulations, funding requirements, or simply the way systems have been set up, devalue working with people in the *full frame* of their lives. Preferred evaluation methods may not surface or measure what is actually most effective.

The good news is that change can come in years, not decades. Change doesn't require creating new programs or investing significant new funding. When systemic barriers to the most effective practices are identified and removed, the blocked potential of many more organizations is unleashed. These unleashed organizations are springboards that people and communities who face the greatest challenges can use to move from surviving to thriving.

FFI is already changing systems

FFI connects, consults, coaches and partners with nonprofits, public agencies, funders and policymakers. We demonstrate what works, reduce barriers, and lead conversations that change the status quo.

- ✦ The State of Missouri's juvenile justice system has realigned its treatment plans and re-entry processes around FFI's Five Domains of Wellbeing to support **better outcomes for youth**.
- ✦ Massachusetts state agencies are collaborating in an initiative to **integrate domestic and sexual violence and housing systems** using a common framework that draws upon FFI's Five Domains of Wellbeing.
- ✦ The Greater Boston Full Frame Network of cross-disciplinary social service organizations is **working across issues to improve systems response** for people and communities struggling at the intersection of poverty, violence, trauma and other obstacles.
- ✦ FFI's Domestic and Sexual Violence (DSV) Cohort Demonstration Project has brought together organizations from across the country as a learning and action community to explore how to redesign services so that they **support survivors facing complex challenges gain the freedom and resources to live healthy lives on their own terms**.
- ✦ National conversations about how to break cycles of poverty and violence have been influenced by FFI's published collaborative research and opinion pieces, such as *To Get to the Good, You Gotta Dance With the Wicked* in the **Stanford Social Innovation Review**. Philanthropic leaders have recognized FFI for innovative "**Emerging Leadership**" (Claneil Foundation) and for embodying a "**Be Fearless**" approach to tackling big social challenges (Case Foundation).

To join us, or learn more:

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