

*Sponsored by 125 National Organizations  
with 40 Million Members*

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Adult Education  
American Association of Marriage Counselors  
American Association of Psychiatric Social Workers  
American Association of Schools of Social Work  
American Association of Social Workers  
American Association of University Women  
American Bar Association  
American Camping Association  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Association  
American Dietetic Association  
American Education Fellowship  
American Federation of International Institutes  
American Federation of Labor  
American Home Economics Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Institute of Family Relations  
American Jewish Committee  
American Library Association  
American Medical Association  
American Missionary Association  
American National Red Cross  
American Nurses' Association  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Public Welfare Association  
American Recreation Society  
American Social Hygiene Association  
American Sociological Society  
American Sociometric Association  
American Women's Voluntary Services, Inc.  
Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation  
Association for Childhood Education  
Association of the Junior Leagues of America  
Boys' Clubs of America  
Bureau for Intercultural Education  
Camp Fire Girls, Inc.  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Child Study Association of America  
Child Welfare League of America  
Church Conference of Social Work  
Committee on Child Development and Society for Research  
in Child Development  
Community Chests and Councils, Inc.  
Conference on Conservation of Marriage and the Family  
Congress of Industrial Organizations  
Cooperative League of the United States  
Council of Guidance and Personnel Associations  
Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds  
Family Service Association of America  
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Com-  
mission on Marriage and the Home  
Future Farmers of America  
Future Homemakers of America  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
Girl Scouts, Inc.  
Home Missions Council of North America  
Intercouncil Committee on Christian Family Life  
International Council of Religious Education  
Maternity Center Association  
National Association for Nursery Education  
National Association of College Women

National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses  
National Association of Housing Officials  
National Association of Legal Aid Organizations  
National Association of Negro Business and Professional  
Women's Clubs, Inc.  
National Association of Women Lawyers  
National Bar Association  
National Catholic Conference on Family Life  
National Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems  
National Catholic Education Association  
National Catholic Welfare Conference, Family Life Bureau  
National Child Labor Committee  
National Committee for Mental Hygiene  
National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work  
National Committee on Housing, Inc.  
National Committee on Maternal Health  
National Committee on Parent Education  
National Conference of Catholic Charities  
National Conference of Christians and Jews  
National Conference of Social Work  
National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers  
National Council of Catholic Nurses of the United States  
of America  
National Council of Catholic Women  
National Council of Housing Associations  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Negro Women  
National Council of Women of the United States  
National Council on Family Relations  
National Education Association of the United States  
National Farmers Union  
National Federation of Settlements  
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods  
National Grange  
National Health Council  
National Home Demonstration Agents' Association  
National Home Demonstration Council  
National Jewish Welfare Board  
National Kindergarten Association  
National Municipal League  
National Negro Health Movement  
National Organization for Public Health Nursing, Inc.  
National Planning Association  
National Probation Association  
National Public Housing Conference  
National Recreation Association  
National Safety Council  
National Social Welfare Assembly, Inc.  
National Travelers Aid Association, Inc.  
National Tuberculosis Association  
National Urban League  
National Vocational Guidance Association  
National Women's Trade Union League of America  
Play Schools Association  
Public Administration Clearing House  
Salvation Army  
Society for Applied Anthropology  
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**The Family**

*Our Greatest Asset*

**National Conference  
on Family Life**

Washington, D. C. - May 6-7-8, 1948

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## Why a Family Conference?

Our respect for human life, as America's greatest natural resource, is deep-rooted in tradition. Now, however, danger signals are out. Are we safeguarding this priceless human asset in the area from which it draws its greatest strength—the family? Could we be doing more to give security and fulfillment to the launching platform of our democracy? What are the forces working for and against the family in this day of rapid and bewildering change?

What makes for happy family life today? Can the school help the family do its job more effectively? How do poor housing and town planning snarl family relationships? What should be the role of the mother in the American family today? How can we stem the dark tides of divorce and delinquency? Do we need changes in the laws that apply to the family? How do government policies affect the home? Where do business and labor practices come into the picture? These are only a few of the questions that people in all walks of life and all parts of the country are asking. It is essential that we find the best answers possible, and use them to uphold the hand of that oft-abused but surely invincible institution—the American family.

## How did it start?

In 1944, the American Home Economics Association began to work on the idea that the only way to get a realistic and well-rounded picture of today's family was to hold a conference for taking stock of the whole topic, with subsequent planning together. The National Planning Association was asked to call meetings of lay, professional and government groups, and from these a Steering Committee was formed. The work of the committee was financed by the Woman's Foundation until, in June, 1946, it had enlisted the active interest of more than 100 organizations which in turn asked President Tru-

man to call such a national Conference. In his reply to this request, the President gave his "wholehearted concurrence in the objectives" of the proposal and said, "I shall be glad to extend to such a Conference as you are planning the courtesy of the White House, as a place of meeting and as evidence of my official and personal interest."

And so, with the backing of organizations—now 125 of them—representing doctors, lawyers, business men, labor leaders, ministers and rabbis, housewives and school teachers, social workers, family counselors, and professors, women's magazine editors, and young people and students—a total membership of 40,000,000, with a wide variety of skills and interests—the Conference was undertaken, and the preparation begun. Set up as a non-profit, tax-exempt body, the Conference is being financed through private and organizational contributions. It will not be a continuing group, nor a pressure group for legislation.

## What is going on now?

Twelve major committees, each with supporting subcommittees, are working through the five months, preceding the Conference. Involving the volunteer efforts of literally hundreds of people, preliminary data are being assembled and the first draft of reports outlined. Of the twelve committees, two are developing background material. Statistical facts as to family incomes, expenditures for housing, clothing, food and other necessities, births, divorce, and death-rates will provide a quantitative back-drop for the ten action areas listed below. A descriptive panorama of the stages in family development, from the courtship period when the family is in the process of forming to the later years when children have left the home and parents are growing old, provides a vital matrix in which the analyses and proposals, being developed by committees concerned with the action areas, will find their place.

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### Section Committees

#### Section I

##### STATISTICAL BACKGROUND

Miss Jane M. Hoey\*  
Dr. Alexander Radomski

Specialists in the following fields (the action areas) are reporting the problems and needs calling for attention, indicating present trends, and suggesting desirable goals related to more effective family living.

Community Participation  
Counseling and Guidance  
Economic Welfare  
Education  
Health and Medical Care  
Home Management  
Housing  
Legal Problems  
Recreation  
Social Welfare

During March and the first part of April, the preliminary reports prepared by the twelve major committees and their sub-groups will be analyzed and studied by many groups and individuals throughout the entire country. Suggestions for revision and addition will be incorporated in the final reports. Conference leaders

#### Section II

##### Section III

##### FAMILY INTERACTION

Dr. Evelyn M. Duvall\*\*  
Dr. Reuben Hill\*\*

##### ACTION AREAS IN FAMILY LIFE

##### Community Participation:

Mr. James Armstrong  
Counseling and Guidance:  
Mrs. Stuart Mudd

##### Economic Welfare:

Mr. John Corson  
Dr. Charles Stewart

##### Education:

Dr. Esther McGinnis

##### Health and Medical Care:

Dr. Haven Emerson\*\*  
Dr. Leona Baumgartner\*\*

##### Home Management:

Dr. Paulena Nickell

##### Housing:

Dr. Coleman Woodbury

##### Legal Problems:

Mr. Reginald Heber Smith

##### Recreation:

Mr. John McDowell

##### Social Welfare:

Mr. Ralph A. Uiblein

\*Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee of Governmental Agencies  
\*\*Co-Chairman

believe this grass roots approach is of great significance and gives thousands of people a direct part in the Conference.

Both before, after, and during the Conference, magazines, newspapers, radio and movies will be used to help citizens realize more clearly their stake in family life. Leaders in youth-serving agencies, labor unions, churches, schools, and other groups will counsel together as to the most effective ways in which their organizations can work together with the families, whose members they now serve. Findings of the Conference in all their stages will be pointed up so as to be of service in attaining this objective.

## What will it accomplish?

The days on which the Conference sessions will be held, May 6, 7 and 8, will point up, through working sections and general sessions, the vast amount of preparatory work that has been done. They will also give not only vision to the delegates from the 125 sponsoring organizations but help in seeing what next steps may be taken in the building of more definitely family-centered programs.

The working sections will be based on stages of family development and membership in each of the groups and will represent a cross-section of the lay and professional groups participating in the Conference. Thus lawyers, doctors, teachers, members of youth agencies, ministers, priests and rabbis, members of parent-teacher associations, and representatives of various other groups will be thinking and planning together. Publications will be functional ones—not flowery exhortations—both pertinent and practical suggestions based on socially and psychologically sound premises.

In these ways, and primarily through the channels of the sponsoring organizations, the National Conference on Family Life plans to forward the health, strength, and security of the American family in which is rooted the spiritual, mental, and economic vitality of the Nation.

**National Conference on Family Life**  
10 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.