

Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships

Strengthening and Supporting Families



Parenting is one of the best and most rewarding jobs anyone could have. But this role also brings challenges for everyone. There are many organizations in the community that offer assistance and help parents deal with problems.

The Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships (DPCP) funds various programs throughout the state to help and strengthen families.

For locations of programs in your community, go to www.nj.gov/dcf/prevention and download the DPCP Community Program Directory.

Family Support Services

Family Success Centers are neighborhood-based gathering places where any community resident can find family support, information and services. Services include: employment support, information and referral, parent education, health care, parent-child activities, life skills training, advocacy and housing.

The Kinship Navigator Program aids caregivers, such as grandparents and other blood relatives, maneuver through various government networks to find formal and informal supports and services, including help with paying for such as help with paying child care, getting referrals to support groups, and help with getting medical coverage, legal services and housing assistance. Kinship caregivers can call 2-1-1 to locate the agency providing assistance in their area.

Domestic Violence Services

A network of domestic violence programs, at least one in every county, is funded through DPCP to provide core services for domestic violence victims and their families including: emergency shelter; 24-hour hotline; counseling; general, financial, housing and legal advocacy; children's services; and community education and networking.

Peace: A Learned Solution (PALS) is a research-based intensive therapeutic program that provides comprehensive services for children exposed to domestic violence using creative arts therapies. PALS also provides counseling, advocacy and case management for their non-offending parents.

Domestic Violence (DV) Liaison Program is a partnership of DCF and NJ Coalition for Battered Women, designed to improve safety and outcomes for families when child abuse and DV co-occur. Local DV staff partner with DYFS workers on-site to provide case consultation, safety planning, resources and advocacy for DV victims and their children.



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Early Childhood Services

The Home Visitation Program provides services to families challenged by complex health-related and/or social problems. This program works with young families who are at risk for abuse and neglect, offering parenting skills and early intervention services for pregnant women and children up to age five.

The Strengthening Families Initiative (NJ SFI) also focuses on preventing child abuse and neglect by strengthening families through early care and education.

The Children's Trust Fund supports various child abuse prevention programs. Examples of such programs include parenting education for fathers and teens, culturally specific prevention education and training for teachers on identifying and referring families for assistance.

School-Linked Services

School Based Youth Services Programs (SBYSP) are located in all counties in or near schools in the community. The programs provide services before, during and after school and throughout the summer and are open to all youth ages 10 -19 enrolled in any school that hosts a SBYSP. Major services include: mental health and family services; health services; substance abuse counseling; employment services; pregnancy prevention programs; learning support services; referrals to community based services; and recreation.

Other school-linked programs include the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, Parent Linking Program, Family Empowerment Program, Newark School-Based Health Centers and Family Friendly Centers.

The NJ Statewide youth helpline, 2NDFLOOR, is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to children and young adults ages 10-24. Youth can either call the helpline, 1-888-222-2228, or access the interactive Web site www.2NDFLOOR.org. Calls to the 2NDFLOOR youth helpline are anonymous and confidential except in life-threatening situations.

The New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Project (CAP), a statewide network of 21 county CAP projects, provides primary prevention education to children (pre-K to 12th grades), their parents and school staff in the areas of reduction of bullying, peer violence, stranger and known adult abuse. County CAP projects work closely with local school districts, religious, civic and other community groups to deliver training and technical assistance.

Visit
www.nj.gov/dcf
to find other
supports for
families including
resources for
grandparents
raising
grandchildren.



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