

Community Program Directory

DCF's Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships

Family Support Services

Domestic Violence Services

Early Childhood Services

School-Linked Services

County Welfare Agencies



New Jersey Department of Children and Families

This directory is frequently updated and available online at www.nj.gov/dcf

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A man visiting a small town notices a lot of activity on the street. He goes over to the stream that runs through town to find scores of people working furiously. Babies are floating downstream and the townspeople are pulling them out of the water. The stranger learns that the townspeople have been at this process day and night. He is asked to join them but refuses, and the townspeople become indignant.

“How can you not help us in this crisis?” they ask. “Don’t you have any compassion? Don’t you care?”

The stranger answers quietly, but emphatically. “You can continue to pick up these babies all you like. But it strikes me that your efforts are ultimately inadequate. Obviously, somebody keeps putting these babies in the stream. I’m going to go upstream, find the source, and put an end to it once and for all.”

This Community Program Directory represents an ongoing commitment by Governor Jon S. Corzine and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) to increase access to resources that are designed to strengthen families and prevent child abuse or neglect. The services identified in this Directory are funded by DCF's Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships (DPCP), a grant-making and best practices team committed to strengthening New Jersey's families.

The work of New Jersey's child protective and permanency services through the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) remains ever important to ensuring New Jersey's children are safe and supported. DCF also has a responsibility to invest in programs that prevent abuse and strengthen families in our communities. DPCP has significantly expanded services for children, youth and families in the last several years. This Directory will be continuously updated online at www.nj.gov/dcf as additional resources for families become available.

DPCP is committed to provide the resources and technical assistance needed to grow a robust network of public/private partnerships and programs. Schools and community-based organizations are two prime locations for prevention and intervention services, as you will see throughout this Directory.

The DPCP's goal is to build a continuum of child abuse prevention and intervention programs that are culturally competent, strength-based and family-centered, with a strong emphasis on primary child abuse prevention.

Family Support Services

Family Success Centers

New Jersey now has one of the country's only statewide systems of publicly supported Family Success Centers. These centers are neighborhood-based gathering places where any community resident can find family support, information and services. The purpose of the Family Success Center is to enrich the lives of children by making families and neighborhoods stronger. There is no cost to access services provided by Family Success Centers. Some of the services include: employment, information and referral, parent education, health care, parent-child activities, home visiting, life skills training, advocacy and housing.

Outreach to At-Risk Youth

Outreach to At-Risk Youth is a new initiative that is part of Governor Jon Corzine's crime prevention plan. It is designed to prevent crime and deter gang involvement by providing enhanced recreational, vocational, educational, outreach or supportive services to youth, ages 13 to 18, with the option to serve youth until age 21. Programs are located in communities with demonstrated high crime and gang violence.

Domestic Violence Services

Domestic Violence: Sanctuary and Advocacy

DPCP is a primary funding source and oversight agency for 24 domestic violence programs and the New Jersey Coalition of Battered Women. There is at least one DCF designated lead domestic violence program in each county, including a shelter with a 24-hour hotline and response. Programs offer information and referral, counseling, support groups, financial, legal services, housing and general advocacy, children's services and community education.

PALS Programs (PEACE: A Learned Solution)

DPCP oversees PALS programs in counties for children who have witnessed domestic violence. PALS is an intensive program that provides counseling and creative arts therapy for children who have witnessed domestic violence. The program serves children primarily aged four to twelve.

Statewide Youth Helpline 1-888-222-2228

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.

Early Childhood Services

Home Visitation Program

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

Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education

The Strengthening Families Initiative (NJ SFI) is an approach to preventing child abuse and neglect by strengthening families through early care and education. The Center for the Study of Social Policy developed the Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education Framework. The fundamental principle is that certain protective factors contribute towards family resiliency and strength. Early Care and Education Centers play a prominent role in building these protective factors among the families they serve. Through seven key strategies, centers become well positioned to help families build these protective factors that have proven to be effective in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Children's Trust Fund

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

Funding for the Children's Trust Fund comes from a variety of sources, including voluntary state income tax check-off contributions; surcharges on birth, divorce, or death certificates; line item state appropriations; interest from the Trust Fund; corporations and private foundations; and individual contributions.

School-Linked Services

School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP)

The School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP) sites are located in each of the 21 counties in or near schools in urban, rural and suburban communities. The programs are open to all youth ages 10 -19 enrolled in the school that is home to the SBYSP, and provide services before, during and after school and throughout the summer. 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.

School-Linked Services *continued*

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative uses education, counseling and health services to reduce the birth rate among teens in high school. Any youth, at-risk or not, enrolled in the school that is home to the APPI program is eligible for services. Risk factors include sexual abuse or neglect at home, low school achievement, poverty, substance abuse or living in a home where siblings or relatives gave birth during their teen years. Referrals can come from peers, family members, guidance counselors, or foster families. Students also may enroll themselves.

Parent Linking Program

The Parent Linking Program is designed to ensure the development of life skills and graduation of teen parents. It is also a collaborative effort with Prevent Child Abuse NJ to prevent abuse and neglect of young children, providing parenting education and on-site child care for teen parents enrolled in the School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP).

Family Empowerment Program

The Family Empowerment Program (FEP) is a unique intervention program that targets students and families with intergenerational distress related to substance abuse. It provides a comprehensive intervention that integrates direct family system and adolescent development services with school and community resources. Related issues include substance abuse, mental health, academic performance and attendance, violence, gangs and juvenile justice involvement. The goal of the program is to maintain the student in school, while facilitating positive change that reduces risk factors in both student and family.

Newark School-Based Health Centers

Newark School-Based Health Centers provide comprehensive health services specifically for children and youth ages 0-21. Centers are conveniently located in neighborhood schools. Services include: well baby checks; physicals, immunizations; behavior and learning concerns; mental health services; dental and vision care.

Family Friendly Centers

Family Friendly Centers (FFC) offer a wide range of services to enhance after-school programming for elementary and middle-school students and their families. FFCs collaborate with their host schools and communities to provide services in the core areas of education, recreation, social services and enrichment. This comprehensive program stresses parental participation as well as partnerships among school and community stakeholders to meet the particular needs of the students and parents.

NJ Child Assault Prevention Project

The New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Project, known as CAP, is a statewide prevention program. CAP trains children, parents and teachers to prevent peer assault, stranger abduction and known adult assault. CAP staff work closely with local school districts, parent/teacher associations, home school groups and other community groups. CAP has a threefold educational approach to prevention which includes staff in-service, parent programs and individual classroom workshops for children and teens.

Somerset

Domestic Violence Services

Domestic Violence Program

Resource Center for Women and their Families
427 Homestead Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
(866) 685-1122 (24 hour hotline)
(908) 359-0003

Early Childhood Services

Home Visitation

CARRI Program
UMDNJ/UBHC
151 Centennial Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08902
732-235-4057

County Welfare Agency

Somerset County Board of Social Services
391-D Somerset Street
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 526-8800

Somerset County Board of Social Services
610 Franklin Blvd.
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 846-6499

Somerset County Board of Social Services
73 East High Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 526-8800

School Linked Services

Family Friendly Centers

VanDerveer #10
Union Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 454-2074 ext. 122

Weston School/Manville
600 Newark Avenue
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 454-2074 ext. 122

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative

Franklin High School
500 Elizabeth Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873
(908) 526-2335 ext. 13

Child Assault Prevention

NJ Child Assault Prevention Network
Raritan Valley Community College
PO Box 36
South Bound Brook, NJ 08880
732-748-9728

School Based Youth Services Program

Somerset County Vocational Technical
High School
PO Box 6350
14 Vogt Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
(908) 526-8900 ext. 7286