

Family Resource Centers (FRC) in the state of NH are independent non-profit agencies that provide family strengthening programs in their individual communities. All FRCs seek to strengthen families by promoting health, wellbeing, self-sufficiency and positive parenting through support and education. FRCs are an integral part of the of the Department's community-based service delivery system and individual FRCs are often awarded competitively bid contracts to provide discrete services designed to strengthen families and promote healthy outcomes. The Department does not provide support for FRC infrastructure or general operation.

The Department contracts and funds Comprehensive Family Support Services (CFSS), provided statewide through eleven different agencies, eight of which are FRC's. The CFSS program assists parents in a variety of ways in an effort to strengthen their family unit, such as: home visiting, parenting education, positive parenting skills, budget management, child development, parent child attachment, and community resources and referrals. This program is funded through the Division of Economic Housing and Stability with a combination of federal and general funds. In FY 2020 the program served 1,285 families and 3,922 individuals. 49% of these families are single care givers, 86% are at or below the federal poverty level. The CFSS program follows families for 3 years to see if after they have completing the program if a case is opened in the DCYF child welfare system. After 3 years of completion of the program 89.2% of families have not received DCYF services and after 1 year of completion 95.8% of families have avoided the need for DCYF services.

Healthy Families America (HFA) NH, is an evidence based home visiting program offered statewide. It is designed to decrease preterm births, increase screening for maternal depression; and improve coordination and referrals for community resources. HFA helps NH families who may be first time parents, young parents, parents who have served in the armed forces, households with interactions with child welfare services, families with history of substance misuse or just families who may need a little extra help and support. HFA NH family support specialists start working with families the moment they find out they are pregnant through their child's third birthday. There are nine HFA programs statewide, three of which are within FRC's. In SFY 20 335 families; 310 children and 483 adults, received these services. The Division of Public Health Services administers these programs with support of federal funds. General Funds were used in SFY20 and 21 to increase the number of families that can be served in these programs.

Additional General Funds have been used to develop innovative collaborations between HFA programs and prenatal programs to ensure that families with substance exposed infants receive warm handoffs to home visiting programs. This effort doubled the number of families that participated in home visiting and improved compliance with Safe Plans of Care that are required as part of the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA). The participating FRCs were key to this success.

The Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families (CCSPF) Program establishes an integrated continuum of family support, with community-based services such as mental health and substance misuse treatment, economic supports, home visiting, and educational programs, in an effort to prevent child abuse and maltreatment, ultimately reducing the number of children entering foster care. This program is funded through the Division of

Public Health Services and is supported through federal and state general funds. Three community based organizations, including one FRC, were selected to champion this work in their community. The FRC was chosen due high rate of poverty compared to rest of the state and high rate of babies monitored with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) compared to rest of the state. Through the CCSPF support in the last one year, the FRC was able to expand parent education classes across region; partnered with another FRC to offer virtually Parent Café model to communities; and working education partners and the faith based community to leverage opportunities to provide remote learning support.

The Department contracts with The NH Children's Trust to serve as a Facilitating Organization to provide infrastructure support to the FRC's in an effort to: strengthen the network of programs that provide preventative services to families, develop and maintain a universal data platform, develop a statewide Kinship Navigation program, and provide technical support and training for FRC's to obtain their Family Resource Center of Quality (FRC-Q) designation using the National Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. NHCT supports the FRC's with structuring and facilitating the FRC-Q process, provides ongoing training and technical assistance. 5 FRC have received FRC-Q designation and 278 individual staff members have been trained in the National Standards. This program is funded through the Department of Economic & Housing Stability with a combination of federal and general funds.

Through the Kinship Navigation program, 173 children have been served since July 1, 2020. Of these children, 26% have had permanency granted.

The Facilitating Organization program is funded through the Department of Economic & Housing Stability with a combination of federal and general funds.

While FRCs are as unique as the communities they serve, they share a commitment to supporting their families in their local communities. Using a patchwork of federal funding streams and limited state resources, the Department has depended on FRCs to provide effective services that help prevent child maltreatment improve health outcomes and connect families to needed services.

The responsibility for safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children in the early years is shared across the Department. Through formal integrations teams Divisions work together with community partners such as the FRCs to propel families to independence and reduce costs associated with poor health outcomes.