



Division for Children, Youth and Families



NH Department of Health and Human Services

The Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) plays an important role in the child well-being and family strengthening system, providing a wide range of family-centered services with the goal of meeting the needs of parents and children in order to ensure the best outcomes for families. Services are designed to support families and children in the communities in which they live. Some of the programs and services include:



Child Protection

Child Protection Services (CPS) works to protect children from abuse and neglect while attempting to preserve the family unit. Child Protective Service Workers (CPSWs) help prevent further harm to children from intentional physical or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation or neglect by a person responsible for a child's health or welfare.



Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) is responsible for providing supervision and rehabilitative services to youth legally determined delinquent or as Children In Need of Services (CHINS.) JJS provides supervision, case management, and an array of rehabilitative services through its staff of Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers (JPPOs) and a network of community-based providers who are licensed and/or certified by DHHS.



Comprehensive Family Support Services

Family Support Services provides community-based programs and services to families in their communities, and families that are involved with DCYF, including:

- Funding for programs that work to prevent child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and out-of-home placement of children and youth
- Clinical services and mental health support for children involved with DCYF

If you have concerns about child abuse or neglect, please call the DCYF Central Intake Unit at:
1-800-894-5533 or 271-6562



Adolescent Program

The Adolescent Program is designed to ensure that the current and former CPS youth receive the supports they need to establish permanent connections to become healthy, self sufficient and successful adults. Adolescent CPSWs with specialized training lead, educate and collaborate with youth, colleagues and communities to ensure the best outcomes for adolescents.



Foster Care Program

The Foster Care Program provides a home and a family experience for children who cannot be safely cared for in their own homes. Specially trained CPSWs in each DCYF District Office recruit, train, license and provide supports for foster families, and match children in need of out-of-home care with foster families best suited to meet their specific needs.



Foster Care Health Program

The Foster Care Health Program is committed to meeting the physical and emotional health care needs of children in out-of-home placement. Through healthcare coordination and consultation with health care providers, children in out-of-home placements will receive the ongoing care and services they need to achieve and maintain optimal health and wellness.



Permanency

Reunification of families is the preferred option. When reunification is not possible, adoption, guardianship or other permanent living arrangements are sought. The goal is to provide a child with a long term, safe, stable environment, and to create a bond with a nurturing caregiver to establish the foundation for a child's development. Specially trained CPSWs are located in each District Office and are trained to assist children and their families in identifying long term connections.



Adoption Program

The Adoption Program provides an array of services to families who adopt children through DCYF. These services include:

- Case management
- Education
- Information and referral
- Financial assistance
- Support groups
- Assistance to people searching for their birth families

For more information about DCYF programs and services, please visit:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/index.htm>

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