



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

History & Overview

Child & Family Services, Inc. is a private, nonprofit, human service agency that provides adoption services, mental health counseling, and community youth support.

The agency was established in 1843 by forward thinking Quaker women who had concerns for the community. These women joined together in an effort to help homeless children throughout New Bedford. They felt they had the responsibility and the power to make a difference for those in need.

On March 3, 1843, the women made a corporation called the New Bedford Orphan's Home. Over time, the orphanage evolved to foster care and adoption services. This started the cycle that led the agency to look around and develop along with the community's ever-changing needs.

Over the years, we've grown to be leaders in our field. In 1920, we became founding members of the Child Welfare League of America. This refocused and recommitted us to the original values brought forth by our Quaker founders.

Today, Child & Family provides over 20 human service programs to help people of all ages living in Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, Cape Cod, Lawrence, and Worcester. While we have many programs, each contributes to our mission "...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families." In 1843, this meant providing food, shelter, education, and finding suitable homes for orphaned children. Today, it means helping over 13,000 people with personal and family issues, providing professional and community training, and offering programs that reflect the current needs of our communities.



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

"...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families."



- Enhancing the lives of thousands in the Greater New Bedford since 1843.
- Helping children, adults and families with a commitment to caring and a tradition of trust.
- Offering over 20 programs.
- Serving more than 13,000 people each year in Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, Cape Cod, Lawrence, and Worcester
- Continuously evolving and developing along with the community's ever-changing needs.



New Bedford • Fall River • Cape Cod
• Lawrence • Worcester
www.child-familyservices.org



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Programs

Adoption Services

Older Children and Special Needs Adoption - Provides adoption services for children who are in the custody of the Department of Social Services and have the goal of adoption. The program assesses the children's needs and identifies the type of family best suited to meet their needs.

Adoption Journeys - Provides services and support to families after an adoption is legalized. The services include information and referral, advocacy and coordination, regional response teams, adoptive family support network, respite services, and adoption competency training.

Mental Health Services

Adult Behavioral Health - Provides a full range of treatments that include individuals, families, and couples therapy for various mental health issues. It also offers medication management by board certified psychiatrists.

Child Behavioral Health - We have therapists and psychiatrists specifically trained to work with children who take into account, the emotional, physical and developmental needs of children. They also work with families and groups to ensure successful treatment.

Intervention with At-Risk Adolescents - Provides intervention to high-risk youths and their caretakers. The clinical staff work closely with juvenile probation, Department of Social Services and residential programs on the Cape.

Specialized Assessments - Provides clinical specialized assessments for the Department of Social Services on trauma, sexual abuse, parenting, fire setting, and sexual offending on the Cape.

Acute Residential Treatment Program (ARTP) - A short-term residential treatment program for children ages 4-18 in need of acute crisis stabilization. This 9 bed unit offers psychiatry, clinical work, case management, and residential and education services.

School-based Counseling Services - Offered in cooperation with the New Bedford School Department and other area schools. Professional counselors work closely with the students in the school to help them develop skills, emotional strength, positive mental health and pro-social behavior.

Inpatient Emergency Mental Health Services

Emergency Services Program (ESP) - Provides care to people of all ages experiencing an acute mental health crisis. This program is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) - An eight-bed unit that receives patients from our ESP or other ESP programs in the area who need support, monitoring, and/or medication stabilization, but do not need inpatient admission.

Youth & Family Services

Empowering Families for Success - Designed to meet the needs of families who have children with mental health problems referred by the Department of Mental Health. Services such as behavior modification and counseling, are provided in the home, 7 days a week to assist each family at their convenience.

Project Connect - Designed to help women over the age of 60 years connect with the services they need while providing advocacy, transportation, and referrals through home-based visits.

Youth & Family Outreach Services

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Matches children ages 7-14 with adult mentors who act as role models. These "Bigs" provide friendship and guidance, reinforce drug free and violence free lifestyles, and lead children to discover the life skills they need to make informed decisions throughout their lives.

Caring Network - Helps children who witness violence in their homes, schools, and communities. Regardless of their ability to pay counselors help children through the initial trauma, help them develop safety plans in case of future violence, and show them ways to settle conflict and tension without violence.

Creative Community Solutions Program - Provides flexible respite care for children between the ages of 3-18 who are at risk of hospitalization or residential care due to emotional or behavioral disorders.

Sexual Abuse Intervention Network (SAIN) - A team of professionals work together to reduce the number of "fact gathering" interviews that sexually abused children have to go through, thereby eliminating further trauma to the child.

Coordinated Family-Focused Care (CFFC) - Serves eligible MassHealth children with serious emotional disturbance and their families. The goal is to better coordinate the care of adolescents who are at risk of hospitalization or residential placement because of their emotional challenges. It builds on family strengths and available support systems to help children remain in or return to the community.

Parent Mentor Program - Works to strengthen families at risk for child abuse or neglect. Parent Mentors work with families to bring about constructive change through support, guidance, instruction and/or treatment. The goal is to keep children with their families.

Young Parent Support - Provides home based services and group classes to pregnant and parenting teens in the Greater New Bedford and Greater Fall River area who are under the age of 23.

Specialized Services

Greater New Bedford Trauma Response Network - Provides on-site counseling to local citizens who are victims of traumatic life experiences such as acts of violence and major accidents involving multiple victims.

Enrichment Center - Provides staff training opportunities for Child & Family Services and other professionals in the community. Its mission is to promote the highest quality of professional work and increase knowledge, competence and skill.

CapeNet - Offers services to children 15 years old or younger that are victims of serious physical abuse, sexual assault and/or have witnessed family violence along with their non-offending family members. This program provides individual, family and group counseling, support, and case management. All services are free.