

NEW JERSEY



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www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/success

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families funds and administers a statewide Network of Family Success Centers (FSCs) operated by nonprofit agencies as neighborhood-based places where any community resident can access family support, information and services, and specialized supports that vary depending on the needs and desires of the community in which they are located. The function of FSCs is to provide resources and support before families fall into crisis.

At a Glance

- Year founded: 2007
- Year joined NFSN: 2016
- Network type: Public Funder-Coordinated

Network Functions

- Connecting Members
- Training/technical assistance
- Working on systems change/policy/advocacy
- Securing/raising funds that are distributed to Members
- Marketing/public awareness activities
- Shared data management system



Highlights

- With funding from the federal government, FSCs provided over 5,000 households with infant formula in response to the national shortage from Dec 2022-March 2024.
- The Office of Family Support Services (OFSS) in collaboration with the department's evaluation unit continued developing a program fidelity evaluation tool to assess the health and progress of program sites during site visits. This tool will be utilized by mid-2024.
- OFSS partnered with Be Strong Families to offer modified virtual Parent Cafe training in response to providers identifying barriers to executing the full Parent Cafe model.
- OFSS held regional FSC meetings to introduce the parent engagement/leadership spectrum to the provider network. For more information see Community Engagement (strivetogether.org).
- OFSS, along with two FSC directors, presented at the 2023 SPARC Convening in Baltimore, MD, about NJ's FSC model.
- OFSS, in collaboration with the NJ DCF Office of Strategic Development and FSC directors, began updating the FSC manual which will be translated into an online asynchronous training for all FSC staff by fall 2024.

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Network Mission Statement:

To support the development, growth, and continuation of these services by providing technical assistance, training advocacy, resources and networking opportunities.

Members

- Number of Members: 57
 - 54 Community-Based FRCs
 - 3 County/City Facility-based FRCs
- Individuals served: 75,508 unduplicated individuals, 42,754 families
- Funding: \$15.5M
- Funding sources:
 - Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP): \$1.2M
 - State government: \$14.3M

Member Service Areas

- Parenting Support
- Access to Resources
- Concrete Support
- Child Development Activities
- Parent Leadership Development
- Family Economic Success Activities
- Education Activities
- Health/Wellness Activities
- Intentional Multiple Family Member Engagement Activities
- Community Strengthening Activities



Outcomes

- 42,754 families received support
- 45% were Hispanic/Latinx
- 198,536 individual and group sessions were held, primarily for information and referral to food/clothing, family health, and advocacy
- FSCs were involved with 8,913 public events, with 100,815 individuals in attendance