



United for Kids and Families

Preserving Families

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

- Family preservation services are designed to maintain family unity, ensure that children grow up in safe and stable home, and strengthen the family's ability to function more effectively and independently in order to prevent family breakup.
- Services may include counseling, health-related services, parenting education, and substance abuse treatment. Under some circumstances, services such as emergency shelter, food, clothing, utilities or rent, may be provided when no other resources are available and their lack becomes life threatening or may result in a child's removal from the family.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

- Families served through family preservation services are those in which intervention is needed to prevent out-of-home placement of a child at risk of removal and placement into foster care. The focus of services is to maintain and strengthen the family unit while ensuring the safety of the child and individual family members.
- Families may receive services through a variety of programs and service providers.
- The success of Virginia's family preservation services is reflected in the low rate of children in foster care when compared with other states. Four out of 1,000 children in Virginia are in foster care, whereas the national average is eight out of 1,000.

FUNDING RESOURCES

- Multiple funding sources support services and programs for family preservation services.
- *Promoting Safe and Stable Families* (federal Title IV-B, subpart 2) covers services to prevent out-of-home placement and/or to stabilize the family situation. These services can be provided directly by local departments of social services, purchased through approved providers, or provided through referral to other community resources.
- Federal *Social Services Block Grant* funds are used by local social service agencies to provide services to their families when the children have been identified as at-risk of out-of-home placement.
- Virginia's Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families (CSA) funding covers services for children with an identified risk of out-of-home placement, and their families. CSA is a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youths and their families in the Commonwealth. To access CSA funded services, service needs of at-risk children and families are assessed by community Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs).