



FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

PROGRAM REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2012

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Commissioner

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Executive Summary

Family Preservation Services Fiscal Year 2012 Program Report

(JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012)

Family Preservation Services (FPS) is an intensive, in-home, crisis intervention and family education program targeted to families whose children are at imminent risk of abuse and neglect and out-of-home placement, or those who are preparing for reunification. The goals of the program are to:

- ❖ ensure child safety
- ❖ stabilize the family
- ❖ prevent out-of-home placement
- ❖ improve family functioning
- ❖ link families with appropriate community resources

Services include: child and family assessments; skill based interventions, counseling and related support; linkages to community resources; limited financial assistance; and follow-up. Services are provided in the family's home or related environment as circumstances warrant.

FPS staff is available to families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a period of up to eight (8) weeks. Program interventions are intensive, providing each family five (5) to twenty (20) hours of direct face-to-face service per week depending on the nature and severity of their situation and presenting problems. All services are designed to build on family strengths and respond to a wide range of family needs.

All referrals for FPS services are made by the Department of Children and Families' Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) Local Offices. Family participation in the program is voluntary. Families remain under DCP&P supervision while receiving FPS services.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) currently funds FPS programs in each of New Jersey's 21 counties through contracts with 15 community-based provider agencies. Five agencies operate programs in more than one county. During Fiscal Year 2012:

- ❖ Total contract funding for FPS services remained at approximately \$6 million. Based on this figure and statewide levels of service, the estimated average cost per family is \$6,185.
- ❖ 930 families and 2,114 children received FPS services
- ❖ FPS programs achieved a statewide placement prevention rate of 95.86%
- ❖ Of the 2,114 children who received services, almost one-half were 6 years of age or under
- ❖ Consistent with reporting requirements included in N.J.S.A. 30:4C-81, 12 month follow-up data indicates that 1,704 children of 1,750 served in SFY 2011 (97%) were successfully tracked one year after discharge. Of that figure, 1,518 were either at home or in another stable living arrangement and 148 were in placement, constituting a long-term placement prevention rate of 91.12%

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FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROGRAM REPORT
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SECTION I: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) currently funds Family Preservation Services (FPS) programs in each of New Jersey's 21 counties through contracts with 15 community-based provider agencies. Five agencies operate programs in more than one county. During Fiscal Year 2012, total annual funding for FPS services was approximately six million dollars. Based on this figure and statewide levels of service, the estimated average cost per family is \$6,185.

THE FPS MODEL

Family Preservation Services is an intensive, in-home, crisis intervention and family education program that targets families who are under the supervision of DCF's Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) and whose children are determined to be at imminent risk of out-of-home placement or preparing for reunification.

FPS services are delivered by specially trained staff that provide a combination of counseling and concrete services that respond to each family's unique needs. As specified in the enacting legislation (N.J.S.A. 30:4C-74), direct service staff carry a caseload of no more than two (2) families at any given time, except that during the last week prior to discharging one family, staff may carry a third case.

The goals of the FPS program are to:

- ❖ Ensure the safety of children
- ❖ Stabilize the family
- ❖ Improve family functioning
- ❖ Prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement
- ❖ Link families with appropriate community resources

Services are provided in the family's home or related environment as circumstances warrant and in accordance with the established program model as set forth in the New Jersey Family Preservation Services Manual and the enacting statute.

Staff is available to families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a period of up to eight (8) weeks. Program interventions are intensive, providing families no less than five (5) and no more than twenty (20) hours of direct face-to-face service each week depending on the nature and severity of their situation. More specifically:

- ❖ Initial visits with the family are conducted within 24 hours of referral. The referring DCP&P Case Manager is invited to attend the first home visit.
- ❖ Initial and final assessments of family functioning are conducted using the North Carolina Family Assessment Scales (NCFAS).
- ❖ Goal directed interventions are developed in consultation with the family to address the reason(s) for the risk determination and the identification of services and/or activities to be achieved within specified time frames.

- ❖ Using a behavioral/cognitive approach and building on family strengths, trained staff provide instruction and model skills that are designed to improve family functioning in areas including, but not limited to: parenting; communication; and crisis management...
- ❖ Concrete services are provided to families as needed. Such services may include, but are not limited to emergency financial assistance, food, clothing, transportation and housing assistance.
- ❖ Follow up evaluations are completed at three (3), six (6) and twelve (12) month intervals after families are discharged.

DATA COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS

During SFY 2011, the DCF Office of Contract Administration established an ad-hoc committee to review and refine the FPS data collection and service reporting system.

As a result of those efforts, data elements across all fields were revised and expanded for clarity and accuracy purposes. The data fields were then aligned from the point of referral through 12 months post discharge by linking case goals, service delivery and outcomes for each child who participated in FPS programming.

Service and reporting forms were also recreated to better address operational needs, facilitate more informed communication between DCP&P and FPS, and ensure consistent data collection statewide.

The new format was implemented on July 1, 2011 and is reflected in this Annual Report. Because specific elements across all major data fields have been altered, the figures presented in this document are not comparable to previous reports. The Department believes that the new system generates more precise data and meaningful reports that better illustrate the extent to which FPS services help stabilize families, ensure child safety, prevent out-of-home placement, and improve family functioning.

SECTION II: SERVICE STATISTICS

Aggregate data regarding program utilization rates and the delivery of services in each of the 21 county sites for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 follows:

REFERRALS

DCP&P is the sole source of referrals to FPS programs. Families are eligible for FPS services when there is a presenting crisis that places at least one child at risk of being removed; or when a child is returning from out-of-home placement. Eligibility criteria include active DCP&P cases in which:

- ❖ the child can remain safely in the home with intensive services
- ❖ the family has agreed to participate
- ❖ other less intensive services will not sufficiently reduce the risk, or are unavailable

Occasionally, FPS programs receive inappropriate referrals and must “turn back” cases to the referring DCP&P office. This determination is made within 72 hours of receiving the referral. According to FPS program standards, cases may be returned to DCP&P when the:

- ❖ risk of placement is not imminent and the child can benefit from less intensive services
- ❖ safety risk is too great for the child to remain in the home
- ❖ goal is to keep the family together until a suitable placement is secured
- ❖ youth presents a significant risk to self and/or others
- ❖ family's presenting problem indicates a need for longer term, less intensive services
- ❖ family declines FPS services

Table 1 provides a statewide summary of FPS referrals and turn-backs during SFY 2012:

TABLE 1: TOTAL NUMBER OF FPS REFERRALS & TURN BACKS

COUNTY	FAMILIES REFERRED	TURN-BACKS
Atlantic	51	16
Bergen	53	6
Burlington	100	20
Camden	62	2
Cape May	54	2
Cumberland	44	6
Essex	60	8
Gloucester	55	0
Hudson	51	11
Hunterdon	36	3
Mercer	69	14
Middlesex	65	22
Monmouth	51	2
Morris	49	8
Ocean	56	3
Passaic	60	27
Salem	51	6
Somerset	27	4
Sussex	49	10
Union	42	8
Warren	32	9
TOTAL	1117	187

Of the 1,117 families referred to FPS statewide during FY 2012, 187 were “turned back.” As in prior years, the family’s unwillingness to participate in FPS programming was the primary reason for “turn backs”. Table 2 outlines the reasons why 187 cases were returned to DCP&P:

TABLE 2: REASONS FOR "TURN BACKS"

REASON FOR TURN BACK	NO. OF FAMILIES	PERCENTAGE
Child not at imminent risk of placement	21	11.23%
Child placed prior to FPS intervention or during 72 hr. assessment period	13	6.95%
Family declined FPS services or is unavailable	124	66.31%
FPS recommended placement	1	0.53%
Lack of available program slots	3	1.60%
Safety concerns for FPS staff	3	1.60%
Other	22	11.76%
TOTAL	187	100.00%

Table 3 provides a statewide overview of the total number of families and children who entered FPS programs during the reporting period.

TABLE 3: FPS SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

COUNTY	FAMILIES	CHILDREN
Atlantic	35	94
Bergen	47	103
Burlington	80	172
Camden	60	133
Cape May	52	113
Cumberland	38	101
Essex	52	153
Gloucester	55	103
Hudson	40	89
Hunterdon	33	63
Mercer	55	131
Middlesex	43	98
Monmouth	49	115
Morris	41	88
Ocean	53	105
Passaic	33	79
Salem	45	103
Somerset	23	50
Sussex	39	91
Union	34	74
Warren	23	56
TOTAL	930	2114

TABLE 4: AGE OF CHILDREN SERVED

0-6 YEARS	7-12 YEARS	13-18 YEARS	TOTAL
1050	621	443	2114

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CONCERNS & DETERMINATIONS

Of the 930 families who entered FPS programs, the most frequently cited source of risk identified by DCF was child neglect. Table 5 provides a more detailed description of the child protective services determinations that resulted in DCF involvement with the family and ultimately, the referral to FPS.

TABLE 5: SOURCE OF RISK

SOURCE OF RISK	NO. OF FAMILIES	PERCENTAGE
Emotional Abuse	86	9.25
Neglect	586	63.01
Physical Abuse	238	25.59
Sexual Abuse	14	1.51
Unification Failure	6	0.65
TOTAL	930	100.00%

Many families involved with DCF experience a myriad of issues, conditions and circumstances (either acute, chronic, or cumulative) that impact their ability to ensure child safety and provide a stable home environment for their children. Table 6 illustrates the multiplicity and range of stress factors that were identified for the 930 families who participated in FPS programs.

TABLE 6: FAMILY STRESS FACTORS

Family Stress Factors	Totals
Delinquency	82
Disability (child)	54
Disability (parent)	42
Domestic Violence History*	212
Financial	384
Housing Related	268
Mental Health (parent)	363
Mental/Behavioral Health (child)	332
Physical Health (child)	61
Physical Health (parent)	51
Substance Abuse (child)	31
Substance Abuse (parent)	248
TOTALS	2790

* FPS does not provide services to families that are currently experiencing domestic violence. DCF protocols and programs exist to address the needs of these families.

Each child under DCF supervision has a case goal that drives the delivery of FPS services. Table 7 provides a summary of the DCF case/service goals that were established for each of the 2,114 children whose families participated in FPS:

TABLE 7: DCF CASE/SERVICE GOALS

Case/Service Goal	Children	Percentage
Reunification	172	8.14%
Stabilize in Home	1927	91.15%
Stabilize in placement	15	0.71%
TOTAL	2114	100.00%

SERVICE INTERVENTIONS

A referral becomes an intervention when the family and the FPS program agree that FPS services are appropriate. For the period July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, a total of 930 families and 2114 children received FPS services.

While the method and focus of FPS service interventions varies from family-to-family, the service categories listed below provide a broad picture of the work that was done with families:

TABLE 8: TYPES OF FPS SERVICES PROVIDED

SERVICES	UNITS PROVIDED	PERCENTAGE
Access Resources	133	4.19%
Anger / Conflict Resolution	203	6.40%
Behavior Management	237	7.47%
Budget / Finance Management	107	3.37%
Communication Skills	328	10.34%
Concrete Services*	336	10.60%
Employment Assistance	170	5.36%
Household Management	26	0.82%
Parenting Skills	175	5.52%
Safety Strategies	97	3.06%
Stress Management / Coping	648	20.44%
Daily Routines / Time Management	150	4.73%
Support Health / Medical Care	315	9.93%
Support Mental Health Treatment	66	2.08%
Support Substance Abuse Treatment	94	2.96%
None (Interrupted Intervention)	86	2.71%
TOTAL	3171	100.00%

*Concrete Services may include emergency financial assistance, food, clothing, transportation and housing assistance

FPS service interventions span a period of four (4) to eight (8) weeks, depending on each family's unique needs and case goals. During this period, each family receives no less than five (5) and no more than twenty (20) hours per week of direct services.

Programs are required to record information on the amount of time spent on each case. Service hours are divided into two categories:

- ❖ Direct Service Hours: hours of face-to-face contact between the FPS worker and the family.
- ❖ Indirect Service Hours: all other service-related hours spent on behalf of the family, including but not limited to documentation, advocacy, collateral contacts, case consultation, supervision, and travel.

Table 9 provides further detail about the duration and frequency of FPS services provided to participating families:

TABLE 9: DURATION & FREQUENCY OF SERVICES

COUNTY	NO. FAMILIES SERVED	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY (Weeks)	DIRECT SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED (Avg. per Week)	INDIRECT SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED (Avg. per Week)	TOTAL SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED (Avg. per Week)
Atlantic	35	5.71	6.78	8.20	14.93
Bergen	47	4.85	5.94	7.18	13.09
Burlington	80	4.07	4.16	5.03	9.17
Camden	60	4.28	5.28	6.38	11.63
Cape May	52	5.50	4.74	5.73	10.44
Cumberland	38	5.03	7.09	8.57	15.62
Essex	52	4.51	5.78	6.99	12.74
Gloucester	55	4.14	5.95	7.19	13.11
Hudson	40	4.73	7.16	8.66	15.78
Hunterdon	33	5.49	7.48	9.04	16.48
Mercer	55	5.37	4.59	5.55	10.11
Middlesex	43	4.92	6.41	7.75	14.11
Monmouth	49	4.33	6.38	7.72	14.06
Morris	41	4.85	6.82	8.24	15.01
Ocean	53	5.16	4.96	5.99	10.91
Passaic	33	5.94	6.91	8.35	15.21
Salem	45	4.97	5.12	11.06	16.18
Somerset	23	5.05	11.67	14.11	25.71
Sussex	39	4.97	7.00	8.46	15.41
Union	34	4.69	8.49	10.26	18.70
Warren	23	4.91	12.00	14.50	26.42
TOTAL	930	4.86	6.39	8.08	14.44

FPS programs provide very limited financial assistance to help families overcome barriers to success and reinforce the therapeutic process. These funds may be used to:

- ❖ Address concrete needs that jeopardize the family's stability
- ❖ Strengthen and promote family relationships
- ❖ Reward progress or goal attainment

Not every family served by FPS receives financial assistance. Dispersements are made at the discretion of programs based on the unique needs of each family. Allowable expenditures may include: essential household items; engagement activities; skill building aids such as books, videos, and games; low cost "reinforcement" to reward achievements, etc. Table 10 illustrates the financial assistance provided by FPS programs:

TABLE 10: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	
Total No. of Families Served by FPS	930
No. Families Who Received Financial Assistance	543
Total Amount of Financial Assistance Distributed	\$24,638.42
Average Amount Per Family	\$45.37
Percentage of Families who Received Financial Assistance	58.39%

The FPS Model has clear standards regarding termination or discharge from the program. Because FPS is a short term intervention, discharge planning begins early with the goal of linking families to other services and supports within the community.

FPS is a voluntary program from which families can withdraw at any time however every effort is made to maintain their engagement. When families choose to discontinue their participation in the program, FPS advises the DCP&P case manager, provides linkages to other relevant services, and closes the case.

Termination can and often does occur when families destabilize and safety concerns become too great for children to remain at home. FPS remains actively involved with families that experience short-term out-of-home placement for seven (7) days or less. During this time, FPS works to facilitate the child's timely return if possible. FPS must close the case when a placement exceeds seven (7) days.

When FPS cases are closed and services are terminated, interventions are classified into two distinct categories:

- ❖ Full Intervention: FPS services last a minimum of 28 days or all case goals are achieved
- ❖ Interrupted Intervention: FPS services end prior to 28 days as a result of the family discontinuing FPS services or another reason beyond the control of FPS

Table 11 displays the intervention status of closed FPS cases by County:

TABLE 11: INTERVENTION STATUS (CLOSED CASES)

COUNTY	FULL INTERVENTION	INTERRUPTED INTERVENTION	TOTAL FAMILY INTERVENTIONS
Atlantic	35		35
Bergen	47		47
Burlington	72	8	80
Camden	59	1	60
Cape May	52		52
Cumberland	35	3	38
Essex	42	10	52
Gloucester	50	5	55
Hudson	40		40
Hunterdon	30	3	33
Mercer	52	3	55
Middlesex	43		43
Monmouth	49		49
Morris	41		41
Ocean	53		53
Passaic	33		33
Salem	45		45
Somerset	20	3	23
Sussex	39		39
Union	32	2	34
Warren	23		23
TOTAL	892	38	930

Treatment goals are formed within 10 days of the initial FPS assessment through a collaborative process that includes FPS, the referring DCP&P worker and the family. These goals are developed to address the reasons for the risk determination that precipitated the referral, and the information that was obtained during the assessment period. All treatment goals are specific to each family, clearly delineated and achievable within the duration of the FPS intervention. Table 12 provides a summary of the extent to which participating families attained their respective treatment goals at the point of discharge:

TABLE 12: STATUS OF TREATMENT GOALS AT DISCHARGE

Individualized Treatment Goals	Total	Percentage
All Treatment Goals Met	488	52.47%
Significantly Met (50% +)	189	20.32%
Partially Met (49%-20%)	109	11.72%
Minimal or No Goals Met (10%-0)	144	15.48%
TOTAL	930	100.00%

*includes 38 interrupted interventions which by definition, includes families that did not complete the program or attain all of their respective treatment goals

FPS programs track the whereabouts of all children from the time the case is accepted through discharge and afterwards. Table 13 details the placement disposition of every child who received services in FY 2012 and whose case was closed by FPS during the reporting period:

TABLE 13: LOCATION OF CHILDREN SERVED AT DISCHARGE

Housing Location at Discharge	Statewide Total	Percentage
Foster Care	85	4.02%
In-Home	1914	90.54%
Incarcerated / Detention	2	0.09%
Other Family-like Setting	23	1.09%
Ran Away	3	0.14%
Shelter	13	0.61%
Substance Abuse Rehab	1	0.05%
With Relative	57	2.70%
Unknown	8	0.38%
Other	8	0.38%
TOTAL	2114	100.00%

Table 14 provides a broad overview of the levels, programmatic delivery, and impact of FPS services statewide:

TABLE 14: SUMMARY OF FPS SERVICE INTERVENTIONS

County	Unduplicated Clients Served		FPS Services Provided				Child's Status at Discharge*			Placement Prevention
	Families	Children	Avg. Length of Stay (Weeks)	DIRECT SERVICE HOURS (Avg. per Week)	FULL INTERVENTION	INTERRUPTED INTERVENTION	Preserved	Placed	Other	
Atlantic	35	94	5.71	6.78	35		84	6	4	93.33%
Bergen	47	103	4.85	5.94	47		100	3	0	97.09%
Burlington	80	172	4.07	4.16	72	8	165	5	2	97.06%
Camden	60	133	4.28	5.28	59	1	129	4	0	96.99%
Cape May	52	113	5.50	4.74	52		106	3	4	97.25%
Cumberland	38	101	5.03	7.09	35	3	94	0	7	100.00%
Essex	52	153	4.51	5.78	42	10	142	5	6	96.60%
Gloucester	55	103	4.14	5.95	50	5	96	5	2	95.05%
Hudson	40	89	4.73	7.16	40		89	0	0	100.00%
Hunterdon	33	63	5.49	7.48	30	3	55	3	5	94.83%
Mercer	55	131	5.37	4.59	52	3	123	2	6	98.40%
Middlesex	43	98	4.92	6.41	43		83	7	8	92.22%
Monmouth	49	115	4.33	6.38	49		113	1	1	99.12%
Morris	41	88	4.85	6.82	41		80	7	1	91.95%
Ocean	53	105	5.16	4.96	53		96	8	1	92.31%
Passaic	33	79	5.94	6.91	33		75	0	4	100.00%
Salem	45	103	4.97	5.12	45		97	2	4	97.98%
Somerset	23	50	5.05	11.67	20	3	43	3	4	93.48%
Sussex	39	91	4.97	7.00	39		76	13	2	85.39%
Union	34	74	4.69	8.49	32	2	65	8	1	89.04%
Warren	23	56	4.91	12.00	23		55	0	1	100.00%
Total	930	2114	4.86	6.39	892	38	1966	85	63	95.86%

*Child's Status at Discharge: "Preserved" means the child remained in the target home; "Placed" means the child was in a DCF out-of-home placement setting; "Other" means the child voluntarily relocated or was residing in an alternative living arrangement not related to child protective services

SECTION III: FOLLOW-UP DATA

CASE FOLLOW-UP (SFY 2011)

Follow up evaluations are completed at three (3), six (6) and twelve (12) month intervals after families are discharged from the program. The number of children who remain with their families one year after receiving services is clearly tied to the overarching goal of placement prevention and is considered an indicator of success for FPS agencies.

Table 15 displays information regarding 12 month follow up results for children who received services between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 (SFY 2011):

TABLE 15: 12-MONTH FOLLOW-UP RESULTS FOR CHILDREN SERVED IN SFY 2011

County	Follow Ups Scheduled	Contacts Made	Preserved	Placed	Voluntary Move or Relocation	Unable to Contact Family	Placement Prevention
Atlantic	64	51	42	5	4	13	89.36%
Bergen	62	62	55	7	0	0	88.71%
Burlington	102	83	73	4	6	19	94.81%
Camden	146	146	144	2	0	0	98.63%
Cape May	122	122	107	15	0	0	87.70%
Cumberland	111	111	102	7	2	0	93.58%
Essex	91	87	65	14	8	4	82.28%
Gloucester	80	80	75	3	2	0	96.15%
Hudson	97	97	88	9	0	0	90.72%
Hunterdon	65	65	62	1	2	0	98.41%
Mercer	134	134	120	12	2	0	90.91%
Middlesex	83	83	75	7	1	0	91.46%
Monmouth	55	54	41	11	2	1	78.85%
Morris	79	79	67	12	0	0	84.81%
Ocean	90	89	79	9	1	1	89.77%
Passaic	48	46	39	5	2	2	88.64%
Salem	95	94	80	10	4	1	88.89%
Somerset	38	38	38	0	0	0	100.00%
Sussex	75	75	66	7	2	0	90.41%
Union	59	55	55	0	0	4	100.00%
Warren	54	53	45	8	0	1	84.91%
Totals	1750	1704	1518	148	38	46	91.12%

More specific information regarding the status and housing location of children served one year post-discharge is presented in Tables 16 and 17.

TABLE 16: STATUS OF CHILDREN SERVED IN SFY 2011

Follow-Up Status	Total	Percentage
Brief placement & reunified w/in period	19	1.09%
Other placement non-safety reasons	17	.097%
Placed by DCP&P safety reasons	112	6.40%
Preserved: Remains in home	1420	81.14%
Preserved: Reunified with family	84	4.80%
Preserved: Stabilized in foster home	14	0.80%
Voluntary move or relocation	38	2.63%
Unknown	46	2.17%
Total	1750	100.00%

TABLE 17: HOUSING LOCATION OF CHILDREN SERVED IN SFY 2010

HOUSING LOCATION AT 12-MONTH FOLLOW-UP	NO. OF CHILDREN
Foster care	90
Group home	3
In-Home	1524
In-state residential	5
Living independently	5
Other family-like setting	11
Shelter	2
Substance abuse rehab	2
With relative	47
Ran away	1
Other	2
Unknown	58
Total	1750

SECTION IV: CONCLUSION

DCF recognizes the role that FPS programs play in supporting safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families involved with New Jersey's child welfare system. The FPS model complements the Department's mission to engage families and increase family participation in the identification and utilization of services that build upon their strengths and improve family functioning.

DCF is committed to maximizing its existing resources to ensure that FPS services remain available to children and families throughout New Jersey.