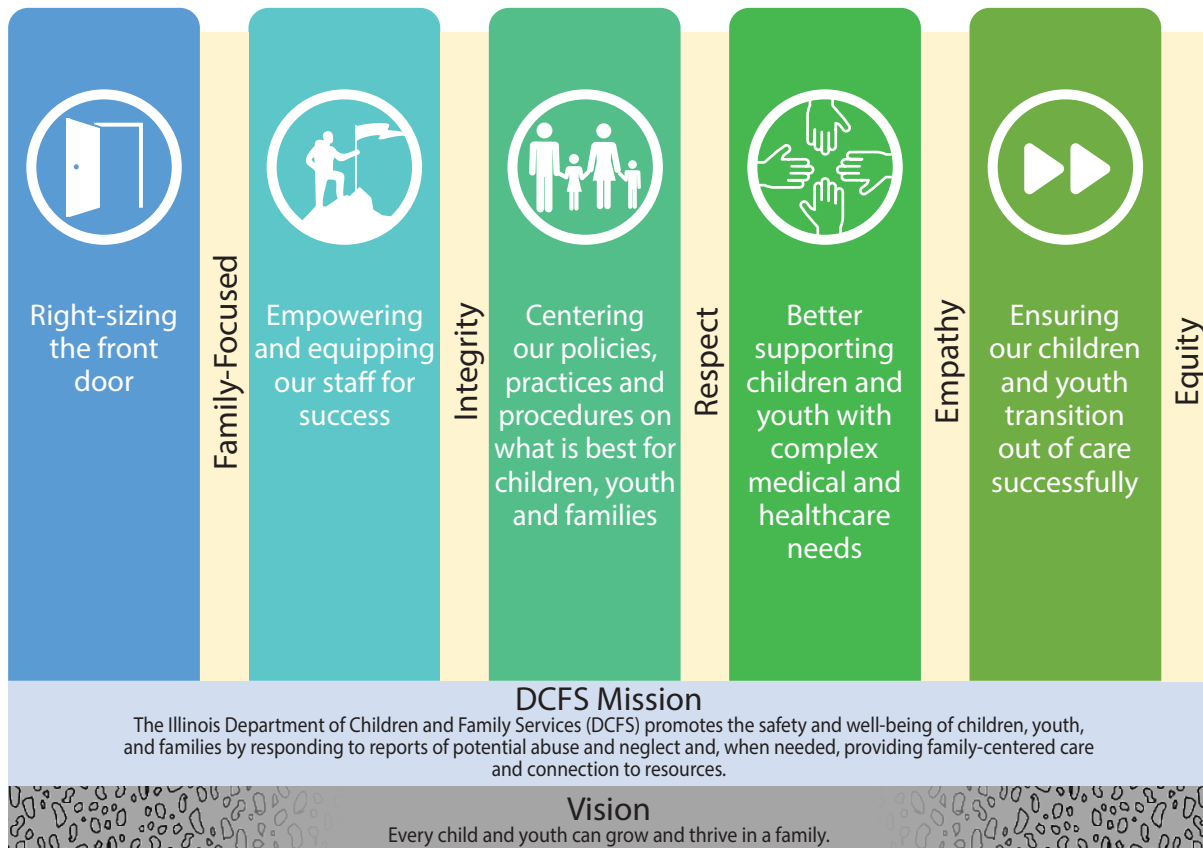




DCFS Community-Based Family Supports

Resource Overview for Families, Providers and Community Partners.



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(Continued)

To find support for a child or family you are concerned about, call **1-800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873)**



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DCFS Community-Based Family Supports

Resource Overview for Families, Providers and Community Partners.

Our Approach to Family Support

- Not all situations require a formal child protection investigation.
- DCFS is working to:
 - Connect families to services instead of systems when appropriate.
 - Address underlying needs like poverty, housing, and behavioral health.
 - Ensure interventions are proportionate and supportive.

SAFE Model (Assessment Lens)

- Used when there are concerns of abuse or neglect:
 - Surrounding circumstances.
 - Child functioning.
 - Adult functioning.
 - Parenting and discipline practices.
- Ensuring balanced, consistent and informed decision-making.

BEACON (Behavioral Health Resource Portal)

A centralized, public-facing tool that helps families and providers:

- Locate behavioral health services across Illinois.
- Identify community-based resources.
- Determine eligibility for state-funded programs.
- Connect to services without entering the child welfare system.

First step for families seeking help.

Community-Based Services - Family Advocacy Centers (FACs) (Prevention & Support)

Local, community-based centers focused on strengthening and stabilizing families. Services include:

- Counseling and crisis support.
- Parenting coaching and mentoring.
- Domestic violence services.
- Mediation and conflict resolution.
- Supervised visitation for non-custodial parents.

- Support for family reunification.
- After-school, summer and youth programs.
- Service referrals and case coordination.

Goal: Help families to thrive and achieve stability

Additional Family Support Services

- Housing advocacy and assistance with securing and maintaining stable housing.
- Financial support to address immediate needs.

Intact Family Services

In-home services to stabilize families and prevent system involvement:

- Intact Family Recovery.
- Targeted support for families experiencing complex challenges.
- Extended Family Support Program.
- Engages relatives and natural supports to strengthen family networks.
- Community Connections.
- Links families to local resources and support systems.
- Family care plans and safety services.
- Short-term planning and support to ensure child safety while stabilizing the family.

Goal: Help families stay safely together and achieve stability

Support for Youth & Young Adults

- Youth in crisis (e.g., truancy, runaways, family conflict).
- Connected to community-based services instead of default system involvement when appropriate.
- Alumni services (ages 18–30).
- For youth formerly in care or aging out:
 - Case management and support.
 - Housing and employment assistance.
 - Education and life skills support.
 - Financial literacy and stability services

“One-stop” support to promote long-term independence

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