

Family Preservation Program Details

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Safe Harbor Family Preservation program provides placement prevention services for families at risk for the removal of their children and to anyone referred by the Child Protective Services (CPS) of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Services are provided to families to help alleviate crisis and help parents maintain the safety of their children in their homes.



PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The program works to educate and connect parents to resources available to them within and outside the community to promote independence and resilience within the family. Parents gain knowledge and skills that help them gain self-sufficiency, keep themselves and their children safe, and decrease factors leading to additional reports to DFCS. Family support workers serve families by implementing holistic, person-centered, and trauma-informed approaches to prepare families for self-sufficiency after the completion of services.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Population served: Families who are at-risk for having their children removed from their homes due to housing instability and inability to manage children's behaviors are the program's target population.

Settings: Services are provided either within the program office, client family's home, or through a virtual platform.

Hours and days of service: Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Office is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Frequency of services: Clients may receive an unlimited amount of services (excluding parent education and counselling services) from family support workers for one year. Parent education sessions are limited to twice per week. Counseling sessions are limited to once per week unless client family or individual is in crisis. (Special permission is granted by program director for additional sessions in one week.)

Payers and funding sources: Safe Harbor Family Preservation's primary funding source is administered by the Division of Family and Children Services and from the Title IV-B subpart 2 of the Social Security Act titled *Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)*. The Safe Harbor Family Preservation program may also receive additional funding from community businesses, agencies, and individual donations.

Fees: Federal funding allows services to be free-of-charge to client families.

Referral sources: Program referrals are accepted from the Division of Family and Children Services Child Protective Services case managers.

The following services are provided: Services provided primarily by family support workers include: Family Assessment, Service coordination, Information and Referrals, Advocacy, Individual/Family Assessments and Individual Service Plans, Parent Education (Home-based), Parent Education (Center-based), Life Skills, and Transportation. Services provided primarily contracted licensed professional counselors include: Therapeutic Counseling and Behavior Management.

Partner Agencies: Division of Family and Children Services

Community Action Authority, Local Law enforcement agencies, Department of Juvenile Justice, Salvation Army of Brunswick, Coastal Health District of Georgia, Faith works and Local faith-based Organization.

Relevant information about our Scope of Services can be found in the following resources:

- Safe Harbor's Family Preservation Client Handbook
- Safe Harbor Center's Policies and Procedures
- Safe Harbor Center's website: www.safeharborcenterinc.org
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families website: www.pssfnet.com or (Program Service Model information: <https://www.pssfnet.com/content/fps/pps/>)

Entry Criteria: All referral forms are completed by DFCS and should contain services being requested. Referral forms will be provided by Safe Harbor Family Preservation supervisor via fax or email. All completed referrals are given to the program director by DFCS case managers via email or in person. If referred families are denied services, DFCS case managers are contacted via email explaining the reason for the denied services. Referrals can be denied for the following reasons: Children are documented to be in foster care, client referred is listed as current perpetrators and/or are registered sex offenders, referrals lack the sufficient information needed to contact the family, open CPS case has major investigations that are not complete (e.g. forensic interview, police investigation, etc.), separate referrals made for opposing parents and/or guardians. If potential client calls to request services independently and have no DFCS involvement, those potential clients are to be given the contact information to DFCS to request assistance with a referral for services.

Transition Criteria: If clients reach a provision in services in which the program is not able to meet client needs or identifies a more appropriate service to meet other needs, family support workers collaborate with the family, community partners involved, counselors, and supervisor to determine whether a referral should be made to another agency for additional services or whether services should be transferred to another agency.

Exit Criteria: Clients are required to complete program services required within their CPS case plans as long as they have open DFCS cases. If the family DFCS case is closed, clients have the right to opt-out of services. Any completion of services or voluntary withdraw from the program is notified to the referring case manager. Discharge summaries are completed at the time clients are exited from the program.

Service Delivery Model: The program uses a family preservation placement prevention model that implements services and supports designed to address caregiver characteristics or child behavior and reduce the risk of removal to foster care when children can remain safely in the home. Other evidence-based models implemented include Resident Child and Youth Care Professional Training, Motivational Interviewing, and Mindset Training.