

Department of Family Services

Mission: Promote the well-being of our diverse community by protecting and improving the lives of children, adults and families through advocacy, education and effective supportive services.

Adult and Aging

ADULT SERVICES

Provides and coordinates services for adults age 60 and older and for people with disabilities age 18 and older.

DISABILITY SERVICES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Promotes the self-sufficiency and well-being of people with disabilities through advocacy, education and consultation regarding legal rights and protections, solution management, and by connecting people to resources and services.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Responds to reports and concerns about abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults age 60 and older and of people age 18 and older who are physically or mentally incapacitated.

FAIRFAX AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Organizes, coordinates and offers community-based services and opportunities to older adults and their families, leveraging an extensive network of volunteers and partners.



Disability Mentoring Day

Students and adults with disabilities learned about careers in county government at the annual "Disability Mentoring Day" coordinated by the DFS Disabilities Services Planning and Development team.

Self-Sufficiency

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Helps low-income individuals and families apply for and receive help (Medicaid, SNAP, etc.) to meet basic needs and attain self-sufficiency.

LONG-TERM CARE

Specially trained staff determines initial and ongoing financial eligibility for long-term care programs such as Medicaid and Auxiliary Grants.

HEALTH ACCESS ASSISTANCE TEAM

Connects people in need with health care and a "medical home." Supports optimal utilization of health care resources.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Helps connect job seekers with employment and training opportunities. Offers employment workshops, occupational skills training, and job search assistance.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Provides temporary financial assistance to needy families with children as parents prepare for and seek employment.

Children, Youth and Families

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

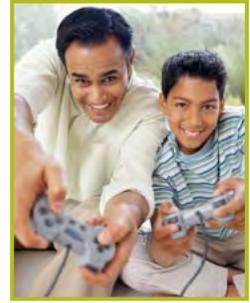
Protects children from abuse and neglect by assessing their safety, risk of harm, and the family's strengths and needs; provides services and support to families; takes action if necessary to assure the children's safety.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION

Supports families, particularly those at risk of child abuse or neglect, through community-based parent education and other family support services.

Fathers in Touch

With limited parenting skills, Mark struggled as a father after receiving custody of his two adolescent sons. Child Protective Services became involved. Mark entered the 12-week Fathers in Touch (FIT) program and learned from other fathers about self-care, self-awareness, effective communication skills and age-appropriate parenting strategies. Mark and his oldest son were the keynote speakers at a recent FIT graduation.



FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION SERVICES

When children cannot safely remain with their families, they may enter foster care and live with a foster family or in a group home or residential facility. Services are provided to enable children to return home safely or to be placed in another permanent living arrangement such as with an adoptive family. Recruits foster and adoptive families.

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

Works with families who are at risk of child abuse, neglect or family dissolution. Helps family attain stability and self-sufficiency and improve family functioning.

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Brings family members (immediate and extended) together, empowering them to make decisions regarding the safety, stability and well-being of their children. The setting is family driven and focuses on family strengths.

Office for Children

SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE

Offers fun, safe and educational care for 5-12 year-olds before school, after school and during school vacations. SACC centers are located in most Fairfax County public elementary schools, as well as in the Key and Kilmer Centers, which serve 5-21 year-olds who have multiple disabilities.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND PROVIDER SERVICES

Issues the Home Child Care Permit; provides training and assistance to family child care providers; and administers the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, which helps child care providers offer, plan and pay for nutritious meals served to children in their care.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE AND REFERRAL

Helps families find and pay for child care.

HEAD START

Provides quality early childhood education and comprehensive family support services to income-eligible families with children birth to 5 years old, and to expectant mothers.

Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

Provides 24-hour crisis hotline, information, counseling, resources and emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Also provides batterer intervention counseling treatment services as well as education, outreach and training on domestic and sexual violence issues.

End the Cycle of Violence

Alice's abusive husband threatened her with loss of custody of her daughter if she left him. With help from DFS she learned about her legal rights, sought shelter and petitioned for a protective order. Alice has since found a full-time job and lives on her own with her daughter. She says that she was able to leave the abusive relationship after she realized that she was not alone, that she had rights and that help was available for women in her situation.

