

Outcomes of Healthy Families Fairfax Program

Objective	Achieved in 2006
Pre- and post-natal health care to ensure healthy births and continued healthy growth and development during a child's critical early years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 97% of children have a medical provider within two months of birth. 91% of new prenatal enrollees made almost all of the recommended prenatal care visits. ■ 92% of prenatal enrollees delivered babies with a healthy birth weight. ■ 93% of the children received their immunizations as recommended. ■ 100% of children suspected for developmental delays were referred to a specialist.
Effective, positive parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 94% of participants screened showed an acceptable level of positive parenting.
Prevention of child abuse or neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Less than 1% of the families who were at high risk of child abuse or neglect when entering the program were later found to have abused or neglected their children.

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Healthy Families Fairfax partners:

Healthy Families Fairfax



PREVENTING
Child Abuse and Neglect

THROUGH
Successful Parenting



Healthy Families Fairfax

PREVENTING **Child Abuse and Neglect**

THROUGH *Successful Parenting*



Healthy Families Fairfax – A Model Program Designed to Help Families

Healthy Families Fairfax, offered in Fairfax County and in other jurisdictions throughout the country, provides services to families who are at high risk for abuse and neglect. Families voluntarily enroll to receive services before any abuse or neglect occurs.

Healthy Families Fairfax home visitation services to families and their first-born child begin prenatally and continue to age five. Parents are visited regularly by an experienced family support worker who teaches positive parenting and healthy child development.

Why Programs to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Are Needed

■ **Thousands of proven cases of child abuse occur in Virginia every year; hundreds of these cases occur here in our community.** In 2005, 1,884 complaints of child abuse and/or neglect were assessed or investigated by Fairfax County's Child Protective Services – of these, 93 resulted in a finding of child abuse.

■ **The long-term effects of child abuse and neglect can be serious and long-lasting.** Effects can include lowered academic achievement, increased risk of drug use, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency and adult criminality. These consequences incur huge costs to society by causing losses in productivity and requiring expanded mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, increased police and court interventions, additional correctional facilities, and more public assistance programs. By reaching families early on, before abuse occurs, prevention programs help maintain a higher quality of life for the whole community.

Healthy Families Fairfax – Why Support It?

■ **Lower Relative Cost** – By spending a relatively small amount up front to prevent child abuse and neglect, expenditures on expensive rehabilitative services for children can be reduced or avoided. In Fiscal Year 2006, Fairfax County spent an average of \$31,433 per child on “after-the-fact remediation” for children with treatment needs due to abuse and neglect. That same year, it cost about \$3,975 per family to prevent abuse through the Healthy Families Fairfax program.

■ **Proven Outcomes** – In a 2005 statewide study, conducted by an independent consultant, less than 1% of the high-risk families who participated in Healthy Families programs were later found to have abused or neglected their children. In Fairfax County Healthy Families Fairfax is helping reduce the number of children in foster care, which has declined by 47%, from 788 in 1996 to 422 in 2005.

■ **Public-Private Partnership** – This is a true partnership involving the county's Department of Family Services; the Health Department; three nonprofit organizations – Northern Virginia Family Services, Reston Interfaith and UCM Community Solutions with funding support from state General Funds, the Board of Supervisors and private contributions from partners such as The Freddie Mac Foundation.

National Recognition

Healthy Families Fairfax is nationally accredited as a provider of highest quality home visitation services and has been recognized by the National Association of Counties for its “tremendous work and innovative ideas.”