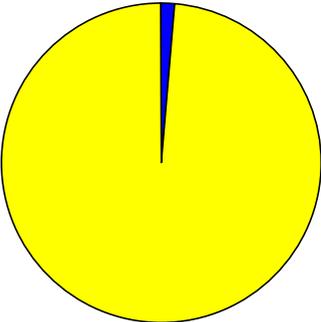


## *Department of Family Services*

### 67-12-Prevention Services

Fund/Agency: 001/67	Department of Family Services	
Personnel Services	\$1,359,084	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>CAPS Percentage of Agency Total</b></p>  <p>1.5%</p> <p>98.5%</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Prevention Services                     <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> All Other Agency CAPS                 </div> </div>
Operating Expenses	\$1,138,810	
Recovered Costs	\$0	
Capital Equipment	\$0	
<b>Total CAPS Cost:</b>	<b>\$2,497,894</b>	
Federal Revenue	\$286,601	
State Revenue	\$152,574	
User Fee Revenue	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$25,572	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$464,747</b>	
<b>Net CAPS Cost:</b>	<b>\$2,033,147</b>	
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this CAPS	24/23	

#### ► CAPS Summary

Child Abuse Prevention programs, an important focus of the Department of Family Services (DFS), support families, particularly those “at-risk,” through community-based, family focused prevention and early intervention services. These programs are designed to strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and help community members and stakeholders provide neighborhood-based support networks.

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While not mandated, Child Abuse Prevention Program services are targeted specifically at preventing the referral of families, children and individuals to DFS's Federally and State-mandated services (e.g., Child Protective Services and Foster Care) as well as preventing problems from re-surfacing that would jeopardize self-sufficiency. The Department's prevention programs continue to be an integral part of the continuum of services to children and families at risk. Early intervention and investment in child abuse prevention efforts reduces considerably the expense of rehabilitative human services programs. Intervention at later stages is much more costly. In Virginia, the cost comparisons published by Prevent Child Abuse in Virginia, placed the cost of Prevention/Early Intervention programs at \$3,500 per family, while Foster Care costs were \$11,000 per year per child, incarceration, \$20,000 per child, and residential Mental Health placement at \$60,000 per child.

The Nurturing Parent Program, Early Intervention Strategy Team, and Neighborhood Networks receive funding through the Federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families grant (Fund 102). This multi-year grant was initiated in Fairfax County in 1995. The grant, which is administered within Child Abuse Prevention Services, also provides funding for a program known as Family Group Conferencing in the Intensive Services to At-Risk Families Program, and for the Visitation Project which is in the Foster Care and Adoption Program Area.

**Nurturing Program:** The Nurturing Parenting Program for Parents, Children and Adolescents is a structured group and educational experience for parents and children in conflict. In partnership with our community, the Nurturing Parenting Program addresses parents' needs for nurturing and for "re-parenting" their children, and provides concurrent learning experiences for children. The program curriculum helps develop empathy, increases self-awareness, encourages responsible behavior through positive means and establishes developmentally appropriate expectations of children and adolescents.

Services offered include the following:

- Outreach/Public Awareness;
- Parenting Education;
- Peer Support;
- Assessment;
- Referral for additional services (e.g. mental health, ADS, housing, employment, early intervention services);
- Multi-Agency staffings; and
- Collaboration with other involved agencies and programs.

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**Healthy Families Fairfax:** Through a partnership between DFS, community-based nonprofit organizations and the Health Department, this program, accredited through the National Council on Accreditation and Healthy Families America, provides intensive in-home services to expectant and new parents who are at risk of child abuse or neglect to ensure healthy child development and family functioning. The program has been supported over the years through contributions from corporate and foundation donors, including a significant contribution from the Freddie Mac Foundation. The program focuses on six areas:

- Promotion of healthy family functioning by teaching problem solving skills, reducing family stress and improving the support system;
- Systematic identification of overburdened families;
- Promotion of positive parent/child interaction;
- Promotion of healthy child development and prevention care in early childhood;
- Prevention of child abuse and neglect; and
- Pre-and post-natal health care.

**Early Intervention Strategy Team:** Professionals in public and private child-serving agencies in Fairfax County make up the Team, funded through a Federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families grant. The program seeks to reduce the number of African-American children ages birth-6 who are involved in the foster care system through two key components. First, a multi-agency human services team trains human services staff members from the County and Public Schools in the areas of the impact of cultural and religious practices on parenting; infant mental health; barriers to effective parenting; and historical and legal considerations for early intervention. Secondly, two separate multi-agency teams hold monthly meetings with other County agencies to support professionals working with African-American families with children ages birth – 6 in developing individualized treatment plans and identifying appropriate community resources.

The program focuses on three areas:

- Increasing awareness and knowledge of best practices in working with at-risk young children and their families with a special emphasis on supporting African-American families among community and public agencies;
- Increasing African-American families' awareness and utilization of the comprehensive services available to young children; and
- Providing support services to promote and stabilize families.

**Family Resource Centers:** Centers offer culturally sensitive prevention-focused programs to increase parental effectiveness in helping children achieve optimum development, reducing incidents of child abuse and neglect and empowering families to become independent. The primary goal is to strengthen families in their own neighborhoods by providing parents with opportunities to learn and improve their skills in raising and nurturing their children. In partnership with multiple County agencies, community organizations, and volunteers, DFS provides staff and programs for three County Family Resource Centers. In addition, staff provide technical assistance to community representatives who are interested in establishing Family Resource Centers.

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**Neighborhood Networks:** This initiative represents a collaboration between DFS and Fairfax County Public Schools. Families nominated by the schools for this program are strong families who are committed to good parenting, seek stability, and encourage their children to work for a better life. Working with school counselors, social workers, teachers, and school staff, Neighborhood Networks educates families about and connects them to support resources. In addition, this program seeks to build leadership skills in families, helping them to become resources within their own community.

The program focuses on three areas:

- Individualized sessions with at risk families that include family members, the Social Worker for the project and representatives of community-based public and private human service organizations;
- Follow-up case management with families provided by the Social Worker; and
- Funding for family needs (e.g., scholarships for students to enable them to participate in positive activities).

**Befriend-A-Child:** This program is a special volunteer opportunity offered to community residents to provide positive experiences for children who have been abused or neglected or who are at risk of abuse or neglect. DFS social workers refer children they serve. Befriend-A-Child carefully matches children 5-12 years old with trained volunteers who spend several hours with them every other week in recreational and/or educational activities. Once matched, children turning 13 can stay in the program with their BeFriends as part of the older BeFriend "alumni" group. Volunteers "BeFriend" a child for at least one year. Many volunteers choose to maintain the relationship longer. The goal of BeFriend-A-Child is to assist children in developing enhanced self-esteem and healthy relationships. BeFriend volunteers serve as positive adult role models for children and help children develop appropriate coping and other life skills. BeFriends provide the parent(s) valuable free time to pursue their own interests. Parents and volunteers often say the children improve their communication skills and willingness to talk and relate with adults and their peers. Child and parent stress is reduced.

**Befriend-A-Parent:** Befriend-A-Parent is a mentoring program offered to community residents to provide positive experiences for parents who are at risk for abusing or neglecting their children. The program matches volunteers with BeFriend Parents, adult to adult. The goal of BeFriend-A-Parent is to assist parents in the development of parenting and personal needs skills.

### ► **Method of Service Provision**

The Child Abuse Prevention Program staff work with interested organizations, businesses, and members of the community to enlist their support in preventing citizens from needing Child Protective Services and/or other crisis services. Hours of operations vary based upon the needs of the particular program. In general, hours of operation fall between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with other times available on as-needed basis.

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► Performance/Workload Related Data

Title	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate <sup>1</sup>	FY 2002 Estimate <sup>2</sup>
Families served in Healthy Families and Nurturing Program	154	269	519	782	860
Value of donor contributions collected (A database was implemented in FY99 to more accurately track contributions and donations from the Holiday Spirit Project)	\$13,940	\$147,177	\$155,718	\$264,834	\$270,131
Volunteer hours provided	37,520	48,529	57,109	44,480	48,928
To maintain the percentage of families in which there is no subsequent founded incident of child abuse or neglect within one year at 99% <sup>3</sup>	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%

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Title	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate <sup>1</sup>	FY 2002 Estimate <sup>2</sup>
To increase the value of donations by 2% in order to increase resources available to children, youth and families in need and to promote self-sufficiency	1%	NA	6%	70% <sup>4</sup>	2%
To increase the number of volunteer hours by 10% in order to supplement agency programs and services to support families and children in crisis and promote self-sufficiency	NA	29%	18%	(22%) <sup>5</sup>	10%

<sup>1</sup> Data shown is FY 2001 actual.

<sup>2</sup> FY 2002 estimates are based on FY 2001 actuals.

<sup>3</sup> Based on data collected from the Healthy Family and Nurturing Programs.

<sup>4</sup> Increase due to implementation of a new database to more accurately track contributions for the Holiday Spirit Program.

<sup>5</sup> Decrease due to a 6-month vacancy in the Volunteer Services Manager position.