

WELCOME TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES'
AGENCY
INFORMATION



Connecticut Department of Children & Families



"Few agencies have more difficult tasks than the Department of Children and Families, or more critical responsibilities."

Governor M. Jodi Rell

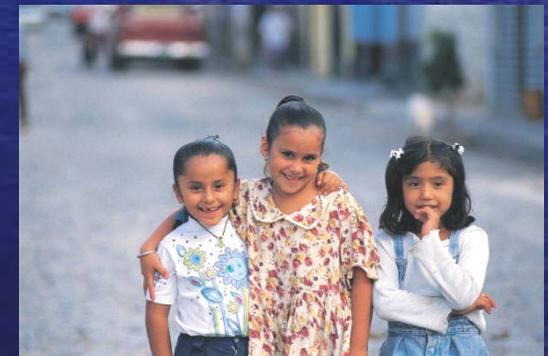


DCF - Creating a System of Care which is:

Child Centered



Family Focused



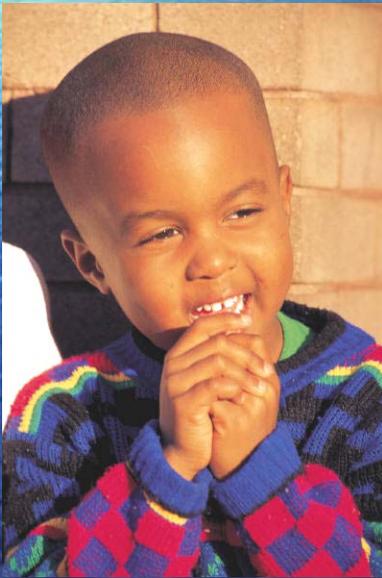
Community Based



DCF

Our Employees Care for the Future
of Connecticut -

Our Children



Caring For Children and Families is Our Most Important Job!



ABOUT DCF



DCF HISTORY and OVERVIEW



May 1969 - The Department of Children and Youth Services is created under Connecticut General Statute 17-412.

Authorized to administer two juvenile correctional facilities:

Long Lane School for Girls

Meriden School for Boys



1974 - The Legislature transferred Child Welfare Services from the State Welfare Department to DCYS.

1976 - DCYS is charged with the responsibility for the care and treatment of the state's emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children and youth.



July 1, 1993 - DCYS becomes
The Department of Children
and Families.



DCF TODAY



Today we have:

15 Area Offices

4 Facilities

4,000 Employees



Agency Mission:

The mission of the Department of Children and Families is to protect children, improve child and family well-being and support and preserve families. These efforts are accomplished by respecting and working within individual cultures and communities in Connecticut, and in partnership with others.



DCF asserts that all children have a basic right to grow up in safe and nurturing environments and to live free from abuse and neglect. All children are entitled to enduring relationships that create a sense of family, stability and belonging.



Guiding Principles

Overarching Principle:

Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

Principles:

Principle One - Families as Allies

Principle Two - Cultural Competence

Principle Three - Partnerships

Principle Four - Organization Commitment

Principle Five - Work Force Development



DCF's Focus



★ Safety

- Protect children from abuse
- Maintain children at home whenever possible

★ Permanency

- Children will have permanency in their living situations.
- Preserve and maintain continuity of healthy family relationships and connections



DCF's Focus



★ Well-being & Prevention

- Families will have the enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
- Children will receive services to meet their educational needs
- Children will receive services to meet their physical and behavioral health needs



Programs & Services

The Department of Children and Families offers the following programs and services to our clients:

- Child Protective Services
- Foster and Adoptive Services
- Youth Development and Adolescent Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Juvenile Services
- Mental Health Services
- Medical/Health Services
- Wilderness School
- Voluntary Services
- Education (Unified School District II)
- Prevention and Early Intervention Services
- Ombudsman's Office



Child Protective Services (CPS)

CPS carries out DCF's primary mandate and responsibility to investigate all reports of alleged child maltreatment and provide services to children found to be in such condition.



Bureau of Child Welfare Services

Area Offices are staffed with a management team, social workers, social work supervisors, case aides, clerical support, LINK support, fiscal, clinical and medical support (ARG), and in-house legal support.



On Any Given Day - There Are:

- 2,782 Children in foster care
- 1,067 Children in relative care
- 814 Children in residential care
- 207 Children in DCF Facilities
- 129 Adolescents in Independent Living
- 168 Children in Safe Homes
- 105 Children in Shelters



Average numbers for calendar year 2007



Foster and Adoption Services

DCF is responsible for the coordination, planning, and implementation of foster care and adoption initiatives statewide.



Adolescent and Transitional Services

Assists youths, under the care of DCF, to make the transition from out of home care to a self-sufficient, productive life as an adult in the community.



Substance Abuse Services

In addition to substance abuse services provided in DCF facilities, the department funds substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services in the community.



Juvenile Services

The Bureau of Juvenile Services provides and funds residential and community-based services to over 1,000 delinquent children and youth on an annual basis.



Mental Health Services

DCF has statutory authority to provide for children's mental health services. Children and families can access state-operated or state-funded community services directly or through referrals from providers.



Medical / Health Services

DCF is responsible for assuring children in its care and custody receive optimal health care. The administration of health care is overseen centrally and carried out at the area office level. Health care standards, policies, procedures and programs are developed and implemented in accordance with the criteria established by the American Academy of Pediatrics, federal mandates, state statutes and guidelines.



Wilderness School

The Wilderness School is a therapeutic wilderness challenge program for troubled male and female youth from Connecticut. The program is designed to teach self-reliance and responsibility as well as to improve self-esteem. The population is diverse and representative of varied backgrounds.



Voluntary Services

Voluntary Services is a program for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances, mental illness and/or substance dependency. It is only for families who are not involved with DCF for abuse or neglect issues.



Education

Unified School District II operates under the mandate of CT General Statute 17a-37, which requires the Commissioner of DCF to establish and maintain a school district within the Agency. USD II provides a 12 month program of K - 12 Regular and Special Education services to all children and youth committed to DCF.



Prevention and Early Intervention

The Division of Prevention and Early Intervention promotes a range of best practice prevention services enabling children and families to thrive independently in their communities.



Ombudsman's Office

The role of the Office of Ombudsman is to receive and investigate inquiries and complaints relating to Department services in an effort to bring about a resolution for the best interests of children. The Ombudsman will attempt to facilitate resolution as amicably as possible.



Office Locations

The Department has child protective services offices located in the following cities/towns:

Bridgeport

Danbury

Hartford

Manchester

Meriden

Middletown

New Britain

New Haven

Norwalk

Norwich

Stamford

Torrington

Waterbury

Willimantic



Facility Locations

The Department has child care facilities located in the following cities/towns:

Connecticut Children's Place - East Windsor

High Meadows - Hamden

Riverview Hospital - Middletown

Conn. Juvenile Training School - Middletown



Connecticut Children's Place

- Residential diagnostic center
- Provides brief treatment until permanent placement
- 54 bed facility
- Children ages 10 to 18
- Provide protection from:
 - abuse
 - neglect
 - abandonment
 - unmanageable behavior
 - sudden disruption in current placement



Connecticut Juvenile Training School

- Only State facility for adjudicated youth (11 to 16)
- Intensive levels of substitute care and custody
- Youth committed by Superior Court - Juv. Matters
- Length of stay determined by:
 - seriousness of delinquency classification
 - behavioral adjustment at CJTS
 - level of risk and special needs
 - availability of less restrictive placement



High Meadows

- Residential treatment facility for emotionally disturbed adolescents (ages 12 to 17)
- 42 bed facility
- Provides intensive and comprehensive services
- Less restrictive environment
- 24 hour per day structure



Riverview Hospital

- Only State supported psychiatric hospital for children
- 98 bed facility
- Children ages 5 to 17
- Intensive 24 hour care and treatment environment
- Admission based on:
 - emotional disturbance
 - mental illness
 - personality disorder
 - high risk of danger to self or others



We make
Connecticut a
better place for
children!

