

# Department of Children and Families

## Mission, Strategies and Cross-Cutting Themes

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**Department Mission Statement** Working together with families and communities for children who are healthy, safe, smart and strong.

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**Definitions** **Mission** means the unique purpose and function of the organization. It serves as the focus of attention and the common rallying point of the efforts of the Department of Children and Families.

**Strategies** are coherent sets of actions that contribute to the accomplishment of the agency's mission and goals. Strategies may include the actions and contributions of external partners as well as the work of DCF staff.

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**Seven Cross-Cutting Themes** The following cross-cutting themes shall guide all DCF operational units in advancing the mission and strategies of the agency:

1. implementing strength-based family policy, practice and programs;
  2. applying the neuroscience of early childhood and adolescent development;
  3. expanding trauma-informed practice and culture;
  4. addressing racial inequities in all areas of our practice;
  5. building new community and agency partnerships;
  6. improving leadership, management, supervision and accountability; and
  7. becoming a learning organization.
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**DCF Strategies** Informed by the seven cross-cutting themes, DCF shall implement the following strategies to advance the well-being of children and their families in accordance with the DCF mission:

- increase investment in prevention, health promotion, early intervention and educational success;
  - strengthen family-centered practice;
  - expand regional networks of in-home and community services;
  - continue congregate care rightsizing and redesign;
  - address the needs of identified populations of children and families;
  - increase DCF and community partnerships;
  - support the public and private sector workforce;
  - manage ongoing DCF operations and change initiatives; and
  - improve revenue maximization and develop new investment resources.
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