



Office of Children and Family Services

Family Support Services Programs

Under FCA §458-m, programs designated as Family Support Services (FSS) Programs were established to provide services to children and families with the goal of: 1) preventing a child from being adjudicated as a person in need of supervision and help prevent out-of-home placements of such youth, 2) preventing a petition from being filed under Article 7 of the Family Court Act (FCA), or 3) as of December 29, 2022, reducing future interaction with the juvenile justice and/or child welfare system for children under 12 years of age who do not fall under the definition of a JD and whose behavior would otherwise bring them within the jurisdiction of the family court under Article 3 of the FCA. These programs will provide comprehensive services to such children and their families, either directly or through referrals with partner agencies, including but not limited to the following:

- Rapid family assessments and screenings
- Crisis intervention
- Family mediation and skills building
- Mental and behavioral health services including cognitive interventions
- Case management
- Respite services
- Educational advocacy
- Other family support services

The services shall be trauma-responsive, family-focused, gender-responsive, evidence-based or informed, and strengths-based, and shall be tailored to the individual needs of the child and family based on the assessments and screenings conducted by the family support services program.

The programs must have capacity to serve families outside of regular business hours, including evenings and weekends.