Family Preservation and Parenting Support
At Family & Children Services we strive to keep families together and prevent the removal of children from their birth homes. In cases where removal is necessary, we work to make it temporary - our goal is to return children to their homes as quickly as possible. Part of this is done by offering a variety of family preservation services to the families of Calhoun County.

This menu of services was created as a guide to assist you in determining what services might be the best for each of your families. Inside, you will see a continuum of services that are offered, eligibility criteria, and how to make a referral.

The continuum of Family Preservation Services that are offered to Calhoun County are as follows;

(least intense to most intense)

- Parenting Class (Green)
- Parent Aide
- Supportive Visitation
- Foster Care Supportive Visitation
- Family Advocate
- Families Together Building Solutions (Red)
Parenting Class (low intensity)

What is it?

This parenting class series is a low intensity parenting class for families that have open cases with Children’s Protective Services and/or Foster Care. It is a 16-week series based on the Nurturing Parenting Program model. This class is taught in a classroom style setting and parent(s) should plan to be available one day per week for 2.5 hours.

Children are not able to attend with their parent(s). The class offers pre and post parenting assessments as well as a mid-term and final report for the referring worker.

Who is eligible?

All families that have open Children’s Protective Services cases and/or Foster Care cases.

How do I make a referral?

- To make a referral for an upcoming class the worker must send the referral form to either KarinK@fcsource.org or SheriR@fcsource.org. Referring workers must submit the referral form prior to the start of the classes.
Parent Aide

What is it?

Parent Aide serves only Calhoun County DHHS cases where Children's Protective Services has identified a family as needing in-home support in areas such as; Parent Education, Life/Home Management Skills, identifying housing, meeting transportation needs, and connections to community resources.

The family is eligible to work with services for up to (6) months and will meet with the Parent Aide for a minimum of (1) hour per week.

The Parent Aide worker is available to meet with families during evening and weekend hours. The referring worker will receive monthly reports summarizing services and the families’ ability to meet identified goals.

Who is eligible?

- A family with an open MDHHS Category I, II, or III case.
- Any family that needs assistance due to an early return home for youth in foster care.
- The family must be receiving services through Calhoun County DHHS to receive services.

How do I make a referral?

- To make a referral please contact Hollie Barton at (269) 580-1311 or email at HollieB@fcsource.org.
Supportive Visitation

What is it?

The Supportive Visitation program is designed to be utilized by Calhoun County DHHS Foster Care staff. The Supportive Visitation role is to provide parent(s) with increased support during parenting time and model appropriate parent skills and interactions. The Supportive Visitation Coach is available on weekends and evenings and is able to provide up to (1) hour of parenting time coverage. The visits can take place at Calhoun County MDHHS.

Who is eligible?

- All families with an open MDHHS Calhoun County Foster Care case.
- Parents that are actively participating in parenting times.

How do I make a referral?

- To make a referral to the Supportive Visitation program, please call Hollie Barton at (269) 580-1311
Foster Care Supportive Visitation

What is it?

The Foster Care Supportive Visitation program is designed to provide Calhoun, Branch and Kalamazoo County hands-on parenting education for their families. The program was formerly known as Home Again. The Visit Coach provides pre and post visit education to the family on specific parenting skills. The evidence-based Nurturing Parenting Program is the model that is used.

Who is eligible?

- All families with open DHHS or PAFC foster care cases in Calhoun, Branch, and Kalamazoo counties.
- Families whose children have been in out-of-home placement for 8 months or less and whose current goal is reunification.

How do I make a referral?

- To make a referral to the Foster Care Supportive Visitation program, please call Hollie Barton at (269) 580-1311.
Family Advocate

What is it?

The Family Advocate program is intended to serve families that have been identified as high risk by Children’s Protective Services. The families that are served in this program can expect a strength-based approach using the Nurturing Parenting Program as a model of service. The Family Advocate will work with the family on areas such as parenting skills education, access to community resources, communication and conflict resolution, transportation assistance, and life/home management skills. This service can work with a family for up to six months and families must commit to a minimum of one to four hours per week. The referring worker will receive a monthly summary of services as well as a pre and post parenting skills assessment.

Who is eligible?

- Any parent or primary caregiver in Calhoun County who has an open DHHS Category I, II, III, or IV, Foster Care or Delinquency case.
- Any parent who has had an open CPS investigation within the past 18 months that has been substantiated.
- Any family that has completed Families First services or Families Together Building Solutions services and needs additional services.

How do I make a referral?

- To make a referral to the Family Advocate program, please call Hollie Barton at (269) 580-1311.
Families Together Building Solutions

What is it?

Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) is an in-home service that works with families who are experiencing issues related to child and family well-being and are in need of supportive assistance. The families will receive intense services to assist with hands on parenting support, connection with community resources, building positive relationships, advocacy, household management, budgeting, and counseling referrals.

Who is eligible?

The FTBS service is a high intensity service that works with the parent or primary caregiver in Calhoun County who may have the following:

- An open CPS Category I, II, III, or IV case, Foster Care or Delinquency case.
- A parent who had an open case that was closed in the last 18 months.
- A parent who had a CPS investigation in the last 18 months.
- Any parent who has had 3 or more rejected CPS complaints.
- To be used as a step-down program when Families First is closing.
- Any parent who has completed the Family Reunification Program and is in need of additional services.
- Families that have an open Category I or II case and no longer qualify for Families First services.
- Families that are identified as needing support by a DHHS Success Coach.

To make a referral?

- To make a referral, please contact Heather Martinez at (269) 348-5840.
Family Preservation and Parenting Support

Joyce Daily-Spence, MA, LLP
Director of Child Welfare Services
Kalamazoo (269) 344.0202
Calhoun (269) 965.3247
joyced@fcsource.org

Allison Bland, MA
Program Manager
(269) 344.0202 x.4223
allisonb@fcsource.org
Family & Children Services is a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian, human service organization begun in 1903. Its mission has remained constant “...To support, strengthen and preserve the safety, well being and dignity of children, individuals and families”.

The Agency receives funding through contracts with Community Mental Health programs and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, insurance reimbursements, fees for service and contributions. We are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children. The Agency is licensed by the State of Michigan as a Child Placing Agency, Child Caring Institution (Children’s Therapeutic Group Home), and Substance Abuse Program.

Sherry Thomas-Cloud, MSW, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer
Sherry.Thomas-Cloud@fcsource.org

Family & Children Services’ facilities are barrier-free

1608 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269.344.0202 | Fax 269.344.0285

778 W. Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49015
269.965.3247 | Fax 269.966.4135

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