

## Our mission...

*Family & Children's Services is a non-profit multi-service agency based in Elizabeth and serving Union County and the surrounding area. Our mission is to strengthen families and individuals by providing comprehensive personalized behavioral health and social services with a priority on serving those most vulnerable.*

## Goals

- **Protecting** children, vulnerable individuals and families
- **Preventing** child abuse and neglect
- **Educating** and supporting parents and caregivers
- **Preserving** and strengthening relationships and families
- **Promoting** family permanency for children
- **Enhancing** individual capacity and self-esteem
- **Participating** in public education and advocacy for children and families
- **Collaborating** with organizations and communities to provide services, resources and opportunities for children, youth, adults and families.

## History

*Founded in 1893*, Family & Children's Services began as the Charity Organization Society. It was joined in 1898 by the Elizabeth Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Our commitment to these two organizations continues today with particular emphasis on disadvantaged families and vulnerable children, as we continue to provide a wide array of innovative and professional quality child welfare, mental health and family services to children, youth and adults of all ages in Union County and surrounding area.

## Credentials and Qualifications

*Family & Children's Services employs a diverse, multi-disciplinary team* of skilled, experienced staff who individually meet respective professional licensing and certification requirements where applicable. The agency staff has extensive experience working with children, youth, adults and families who may need a continuum of services.

*Family & Children's Services is* state licensed to provide mental health and adoption services and is a certified partner of the United Way of Greater Union County. We provide therapeutic, case management, education and support services to children, youth and adults of all ages.



United Way  
Partner

# Client Population

*Family & Children's Services serves individuals of all ages* and diverse families of all income levels. We place special emphasis providing services to at-risk, disadvantaged and under-served families who may not otherwise have access to human services. Of special concern are children in need of protection, foster care or adoption and families in need of crisis intervention or reunification. Our programs address the needs of individuals and families who have experienced one or more of the following: Abuse or neglect, family disruption, crisis or conflict, domestic violence, mental health problems, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, truancy or other school-related problems, homelessness, job loss or other challenges of life.



Family & Children's Services

## Service Locations

MAIN OFFICE	MID-TOWN ELIZABETH
40 North Avenue Elizabeth, NJ 07208 908-352-7474 908-965-3227 (fax)	16 Jefferson Avenue Elizabeth, NJ 07201 908-372-1007 908-372-1018 (fax)

## Family & Children's Services

**ADOPTION  
SUPPORT,  
REFERRAL  
&  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES**



Strengthening Families, Building Futures Since 1893

## *Pre Adoption Services*

The Pre Adoption program provides in-home counseling services to children referred by the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) (from suburban Essex, Union and some areas in Middlesex County) who are in foster care homes awaiting adoption or permanency planning.

Our highly trained therapists work with foster parents and pre-adoptive parents to support their efforts to parent and help them understand the impact of the child's history on their current behavior. The children are helped to understand their feelings of loss, anger, and sadness. Our goal is to help the family adjust to living together

## *Post Adoption Services*

The Post Adoption program provides therapy and support services for any family with an adopted child at no cost to the family.

The agency also provides support, counseling, advocacy, respite and other finalization services for children and their caregivers at no cost.

Referrals are accepted from families or individuals from the community and the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Our therapists have extensive training and experience working with adoptive families.

## *Adoption Referral Services*

In addition to professional guidance and referrals for adoptive and prospective adoptive parents, the Agency provides counseling for birth parents and post-placement supervision for individuals wishing to adopt children from the US or other countries.

We are also licensed to provide:

- **Home studies**
- **Court-Appointed Investigations**
- **Placement Services**



For more information about our programs,  
please contact us at 908.352.7474  
or e-mail us at [info@facsnj.org](mailto:info@facsnj.org).

We're on the web: [www.facsnj.org](http://www.facsnj.org)

## *Resource Family Recruitment*

Family & Children's Services provides assistance with Resource Family Licensing

### **The First Step – Home Study Assessment**

Whether you are applying to become a foster or adoptive parent or are a relative caring for a child, you are required to become a licensed resource family. The licensing process usually is completed within five months. This includes a Home Study Assessment by Family & Children's Services that consists of:

- A completed Resource Family application
- State, federal and local criminal history checks for all adult household members
- Child abuse record information background checks for all adult household members
- Comprehensive psychosocial evaluation
- Reference checks (personal, medical, employment, school/child care center) for all for members in the household
- Pre-service training for resource family applicants
- Life-safety inspection

