



Healthy Families Fairfax

PREVENTING Child Abuse and Neglect

Through Successful Parenting

Partnering to Educate New Parents

In 2014, Healthy Families Fairfax served 535 children and 613 families living in Fairfax County who were at high risk for abuse and neglect. Since its inception in 1991, Healthy Families Fairfax has served over 3,300 families.

The program provides home-based parenting education, health information, developmental screenings and community support to parents from pregnancy until children reach age 3, and are enrolled in group education.

By assisting families with health care access and prenatal care, Healthy Families Fairfax engages parents, helps prevent low birth weight, and supports school readiness by addressing child well-being.

Healthy Families Fairfax is a unique public-private partnership that includes the Department of Family Services; Fairfax County Health Department and three local nonprofit organizations: Northern Virginia Family Service, Cornerstones and United Community Ministries.

The long-term effects of child abuse and neglect are serious and long lasting.

- In 2014, 2,212 complaints of child abuse and/or neglect were assessed or investigated by Fairfax County's Child Protective Services.
- Studies reveal a powerful relationship between adverse emotional experiences in childhood and the physical and mental health of adults.*
- People who were abused or neglected as children were likely to have a four to twelve-fold increased risk for alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide attempts.*

*The ACE study was conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/ace.

**Average cost per child for case management provided through local social services plus the average cost per child for CSA funded treatment services.

Healthy Families Works

Objective	Achieved In 2014
Preventing child abuse or neglect	.4% of the families who were at high-risk of child abuse or neglect when entering the program were later found to have abused or neglected their children.
Effective, positive parenting	94% of participants assessed showed positive parenting skills.
Health care to ensure healthy births and development during a child's critical early years.	97% of prenatal enrollees delivered babies with a healthy birth weight.
	82% of the children received their immunizations as recommended.
	96% of children who complete the program transition to an early education program.

Healthy Families Fairfax consistently meets or exceeds state required program goals.

Cost Savings

- The Healthy Families Fairfax Program is funded by Fairfax County, with additional state and donor organization contributions.
- In 2014, Fairfax County spent an average of \$78,658** per child for foster care placements. In contrast, it costs \$3,473 per family to provide prevention services through the Healthy Families Fairfax program which aims to keep children out of foster care.

More Information

For more information please call Healthy Families Fairfax at 703-324-7706.

